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15 November Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1511143988 [Editorial Report]

PNC Session: Independence Declaration

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat formally proclaimed the establishment of the "State of Palestine" during the final session of the PNC, broadcast live by Algiers television early on 15 November.

The "independence document" read by 'Arafat refers to "the State of Palestine over our Palestinian soil and its capital holy Jerusalem," adding that it "belongs to Palestinians wherever they may be."

The document envisages a democratic parliamentary system based on freedom of opinion, pluralism, and the rule of law.

While viewing the 1947 UN decision to partition Palestine as a "historical injustice," the document stresses that the partition resolution provides international legitimacy for the Palestinian right to sovereignty and national independence, and it urges the United Nations to work for the termination of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands.

The "State of Palestine" believes in the resolution of problems through "peaceful means" and it "rejects threats to use force, violence, or terrorism."

The PNC also approved a political statement which calls for the convening of an international conference "on the basis of the two Security Council resolutions, 242 and 338, and their implementation, guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people headed by its right to self-determination."

Algiers radio, which carried excerpts of the draft statement, noted it was approved by majority vote on each paragraph after "wide discussion and argument" about Resolution 242.

A PFLP official cited by KUNA confirmed earlier his group would respect the majority view on 242, despite the PFLP's opposition to accepting the UN resolution.

'Arafat acknowledged in an interview with Algiers television that the issue of 242 was still under discussion on 14 November, in contrast to "90 percent" of the resolutions that were already "unanimously agreed."

On the question of a provisional government, the PLO leader affirmed that the PNC has authorized the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council to form and approve such a government.

Algiers Voice of Palestine radio stated that the provisional government will be formed of "personalities, leaders, and qualified persons from inside and outside the occupied homeland, and on the basis of political multiplicity."

Regarding Arab reaction to the declaration of an independent Palestinian state, 'Arafat told journalists in Algiers that all Arab countries except Syria have approved the declaration, KUNA noted.

The Algerian foreign minister announced his country's recognition of the Palestinian state in a speech to the PNC carried by Algiers television.

According to Radio Monte Carlo, Algeria will shortly begin construction work on a Palestinian Embassy.

Formal recognition of the Palestinian state was also announced by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia in statements carried by Kuwait, Riyadh, and Tunis radios.

Among other Arab reaction, MENA reported the Egyptian foreign minister's statement that his country will make a decision on recognition later; an Iraqi statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stressed Iraq's support for the independence declaration but did not mention recognition.

Less favorably, Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi issued a statement to JANA criticizing any move to recognize Israel and calling on the Arab nation to "remove the Zionist entity."

The clandestine Al-Quds Radio broadcast statements by the PNSF and the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine condemning the PNC's moves to accept Resolution 242 and recognize Israel.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry condemned the "ambiguous language" of the PNC declarations as an attempt to "pull a smokescreen over the justification of violence, terror, and radicalism," Jerusalem radio reported.

The statement warned that any recognition and legitimization of the Algiers declarations will not help peace, which must be promoted on the "sole basis" of Resolutions 242 and 338.

The radio also carried an interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he viewed the independence declaration as "another step in the Arab terrorist organizations' war against Israel's very existence and independence," adding Israel must convince all nations of the world that "granting recognition to such a creature means lending a hand to the destruction of Israel."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the radio that the PNC's adoption of Resolution 242 contains "a catch"—the clause affirming Palestinian self-determination.

The Palestinians should realize there is no chance that any such demand will be accepted before negotiations, he added.

In contrast, Israeli Arab representatives welcomed the declaration, Jerusalem radio reported, and Palestinian activist Hanna Sinyurah contended it is a recognition of Israel's existence and "a triumph for the voice of moderation within the Palestinian camp."

Israel

Coalition Contacts—Prime Minister Shamir invited Shim'on Peres to a meeting the night of 15 November, Jerusalem radio reported, noting the talks are expected to focus on conditions for the Alignment to join the government.

Shamir had earlier told the radio he would appeal to "all the parties" to join his government, including the Labor Party.

In an IDF radio interview, Shamir denied he is seeking to form a broad-based government on a short-term basis just to promote electoral reform and hold new elections and said another election would be bad for the country.

Nevertheless, the prime minister said he believes there is a need for some sort of change in the electoral system, adding he will check the various options and seek the approval of the coalition partners for any change he deems necessary.

On foreign policy, Shamir disclosed in a YEDI'OT AHARONOT interview that he will propose to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that they hold talks aimed at resuming negotiations on a peace settlement.

Territories—Jerusalem radio reported an "unprecedented deployment" of forces in the Gaza Strip following the Palestinian proclamation of independence 15 November.

Residents nevertheless violated curfews to celebrate the event.

A Khan Yunus resident was shot dead the previous day in a clash with IDF soldiers, the radio added.

At least eight other Arabs were wounded during clashes in the Gaza area, THE JERUSALEM POST disclosed.

Security forces also reinforced their presence in Judaea and Samaria, sealing off the area and imposing curfews on refugee camps and towns, Jerusalem radio noted.

Iraq

Iraq can reach peace with the Iranians "in 10 days if God guides them along the right path," President Saddam Husayn asserted in a speech carried by Baghdad radio.

Stressing the Iranians have no military options, Saddam Husayn said they have no choice but to reach an understanding with Iraq, "which only has legitimate demands and harbors no evil."

Reaffirming Iraq's demand for the immediate clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab, he stated both sides would benefit from this "regardless of the legal outcome of the talks."

Iraq has no ambitions on Iranian territory, he said, and there should be no disagreement about land borders.

He contended progress in the negotiations is being hampered by "some parties" in Tehran who fear that making a decision on "a certain matter" would ensure their defeat in the internal Iranian power struggle.

The Iraqi leader also announced that all Iraqi citizens residing in Iran who can prove their Iraqi citizenship are welcome to return to Iraq immediately.

Libya

The military command has taken extensive measures to protect strategic military and industrial facilities from possible attack, TANJUG reported.

The steps are in response to fears of a U.S or Israeli attack in the wake of U.S. accusations that Libya is soon to open the largest chemical weapons (CW) factory in the Middle East.

JANA subsequently transmitted the text of a Libyan memorandum to the United Nations denying the U.S. allegations about a Libyan CW plant and warning that such accusations are part of a U.S. "campaign" aimed at "the creation of pretexts for a new aggression."

Sudan

SPLA leader John Garang began talks with Democratic Unionist Party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani in Addis Ababa 13 November, the SPLA's clandestine radio reported, adding that the discussions were "fruitful and useful."

Algeria

Forty members of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA) returned to their homeland 12 November, Algiers television reported.

The MDA is an opposition group led by former President Ahmed Ben Bella.

Afghanistan

Resistance sources revealed that government troops recaptured the border post of Towr Kham, AFP reported.

However, the sources denied a Kabul radio report that government troops have reopened the Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

AFP also reported that Afghanistan will soon receive "more sophisticated" weapons from the Soviet Union, citing an official Afghan source.

Palestinian Affairs

Further Reportage on PNC Session in Algiers

PFLP Opposes 242 Acceptance

LD1311200488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1845 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, Nov 13 (KUNA)—A member of the Politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said here Sunday that the front is against referring to the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for holding the international conference on peace in the Middle East in the political declaration that will be issued by the Palestine National Council.

Omar Qataish [name as received] told reporters that there are other resolutions adopted by the U.N. which stipulate the right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland, while the Resolution 242 is only related to the results of the June 1967 war on Arab countries.

He stressed that the Palestinian crisis is not an issue of refugees, but a question of a people who want self-determination and [to] build their independent state on Palestine under the leadership of the PLO and headed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Qataish said those who are asking the Palestinians to recognize Israel should ask Israel to define its borders and they should ask those who have a state to recognize those who haven't.

The Palestinian official said the independence document would be approved unanimously and the same is with the political declaration in the reference to the Resolution 242 was omitted.

Habash, Hawatimah on 242

LD1311230888 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1919 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] [Announcer] The international event of the hour is—as you know—the extraordinary session of the PNC. Our colleague Ahmed Ben Yakoub met with some prominent Palestinians. Here is what he has to say.

[Yakoub] The political declaration of independence is one of the major options under discussion by the PNC. In addition to this important and prominent declaration the announcement of a provisional government, an international peace conference, and the establishment of a confederation with Jordan occupy clear positions in the talks now going on. At least this is what is going on behind the scenes at the Palace of Nations in the Club des Pins. Therefore, there is a heated discussion going on in the Political Committee. Added to this is the fact that differences about a specific point cannot be ruled out, although it is clear there are no differences regarding the independence document. Let us hear what Dr George Habash [PFLP leader] has to say.

[Begin recording] [Habash] I am pleased to announce to the Algerian and Palestinian masses that the third reading of this document [the independence declaration] has been completed by the Palestinian leadership. The Palestinian leadership consists of the PLO Executive Committee and the secretaries general of the detachments of the Palestinian revolution. It gives me pleasure to say that initial agreement has been reached with regard to this document. With regard to the [proposed provisional] government, we will say the PLO Executive Committee is the government at this stage.

At the same time, we will leave this National Council with a principled initial approval that the Central Council will set up such a government—the Central Council will (?determine) such a government—the basis of its formation, its relations with the PLO, its program and its political declaration. We in the Popular Front also agree to the principle of setting up a Palestinian government for the Palestinian state.

As for the timing—when we in the Central Council will approve the formation of this government—this will depend on the political moment, the political program which this government will adopt—that is to say the ministerial statement, as we say—and on the clarity of the relationship between this government and the PLO. We want this government to be the political tool in the hands of the PLO and not an alternative to the PLO.

[Yakoub] If you please, behind the scenes you have a hardline attitude toward UN Resolution 242.

[Habash] The issue in fact does not concern a hardline attitude. We now say the international conference should be convened and we are prepared to participate in it on the basis of internationally legitimate resolutions, without specifying Resolution 242 precisely. Why? There are three issues and we confront these issues with responsibility. The first issue is that all the previous PNC sessions rejected Resolution 242. Now when this session—the session of the uprising—accepts Resolution 242—naturally even if you add to the resolution the right to self-determination—when this session accepts this resolution there will be arguments in the Palestinian arena and among the masses of the uprising.

[They will ask]: How come you rejected this resolution in the past and why are you now accepting it? We do not believe in offering free concessions without getting anything in return. Now Israel's two major blocs ... [Habash changes thought] the Likud rejects the idea of an international conference, the mere idea of convening an international conference, and Peres rejects the presence of the PLO at an international conference.

If we now begin to put our political cards on the table—the recognition of Resolution 242 prior to holding an international conference, the recognition of Israel prior to holding an international conference, all the U.S. demands [to be met] prior to our participation in an

international conference, if we strip ourselves naked prior to convening an international conference—this will mean that at the international conference there will be new concessions to be made. Therefore, we say the international conference should be convened and at the international conference all issues should be submitted.

[Yakoub] Doctor, how do you react to the view which says your rejection of Resolution 242 is a rejection of international legitimacy?

[Habash] Can international legitimacy be summed up by [our rejection of] Resolution 242? No. There are other resolutions—3236, 3276; there is Resolution 194. All these resolutions were granted to us by international legitimacy. International legitimacy gave us Resolution 194, the resolution of the return. International legitimacy gave us Resolution 3236 concerning our right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Quite frankly, I cannot understand why any Palestinian leadership would concede anything given to it by international legitimacy. International legitimacy is all the UN resolutions—including UN Security Council resolutions—and we propose and call for convening an international conference on the basis of all the resolutions of international legitimacy. Why do we specifically say Resolution 242? Why is international legitimacy restricted to Resolution 242? Why? [Yakoub] There are people who say that recognition of a Palestinian provisional government depends on Palestinian recognition of Resolution 242.

[Habash] Comrade, the PLO is now recognized by Arab states, Islamic states, African states, nonaligned states, and by all the socialist states. The question now concerns some European states. We should struggle and submit our views and convince them.

[Yakoub] Another question...

[Habash, interrupting] Another question or the last question?

[Yakoub] Another or the last if you wish...

[Habash, interrupting] All right. [Habash laughs]

[Yakoub] The question concerns your attitude toward a confederation with Jordan.

[Habash] In light of what we have said, it is inevitable that there should be a special relationship—and we are totally convinced of this point—between the Palestinian state and Jordan, that is to say the Jordanian Government. But when should such a relationship be established, which we now describe as a confederation and not a federation, when should this relationship be established? This relationship should be established after the establishment of the Palestinian state on [Palestinian] soil and not after the declaration of the Palestinian state. [end recording]

[Yakoub] We have tried to learn Nayif Hawatimah's [DFLP leader] attitude toward an announcement of a confederation with Jordan but national unity remains the common denominator among the Palestinian groups. Let us listen to what Nayif Hawatimah has to say.

[Begin recording] [Hawatimah] [We will tackle] a confederation in the future, after the establishment of the Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, immediately following the PNC's declaration of the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

This state still has a long way to go in its struggle so as to be able to establish itself with the necessary administrative, executive, political, diplomatic, and social institutions on Palestinian soil. This is exactly the same as what happened to the Algerian Republic which was proclaimed in September 1958. Independence was achieved on Algerian soil in July 1962. There was no room for the nascent Algerian Republic to talk then about a Maghreb confederation, for example, while some of its territories were still occupied.

Therefore, it had to carry on its actual work, namely, to struggle and seek the support of the world's states and peoples and ask them to struggle alongside this nascent republic so it could liberate its occupied territories and build state institutions. Later there can be talk about Maghreb unity or talk about a possible confederation. This might not see the light of day—between the States of Palestine and Jordan—because the people in Palestine and the people in Jordan will have to choose themselves.

We believe such a call for a boycott is a negative thing which does not serve Palestinian unity nor does it serve our people's uprising. We hope the forces which announced they were not going to take part in this session—the session of the uprising—will hurry up and take part in this session, like before when they struggled and came here to participate in the PNC unity session held in Algiers in April 1987. There is an opportunity now before everybody for actual and effective participation in a manner that will serve the entire Palestinian national and Arab struggle. It will aid the settlement of this regional hotbed of tension which has sat on a powderkeg for 40 years.

We in the DFLP have continued our struggle with the aim that our National Council would declare at its current session a provisional government, composed of Palestinian leaders and personalities inside the occupied Palestinian territories and in the Palestinian diaspora. At present this question is still subject to discussion; however, we have reached agreement on the political and organizational basis for such a government when it is

formed. We hope that it will be formed now; however, if it is not, the Executive Committee will be entrusted by the National Council with the duties of the provisional government until the Central Council and the Executive Committee in a joint meeting announce the formation of this government. [end recording] [Yakoub] We then asked Mr Bassam Abu Sharif [PFLP member] and he was optimistic about the consultations. There are contacts at various levels and among the various Palestinian factions and we wonder whether the Palestinian future is taking shape on the horizon?

[Begin recording] [Abu Sharif] Yes. I mean the intensive dialogues which took place in Tunis before Algiers and those which took place yesterday and today here in Algeria are dialogues at the level of leadership. These deal with putting the finishing touches on the declaration of national independence and on the other political projects presented for discussion. However, we can say there is a Palestinian semi-agreement on the declaration of national independence. There is also a Palestinian agreement on the formation of a provisional government.

However, the timing of this formation and its announcement will be left to the National Council. There might be an opinion saying the formation of a provisional government must be left to the future or to a later period with the Palestinian leadership deciding its appropriate timing for it. However, we can say this extraordinary PNC session will be the session which will declare Palestinian national independence.

[Yakoub] Brother Bassam, what is the effect of the absence of some factions from this session and the call for boycotting it?

[Abu Sharif] As a matter of fact, the factions present at this extraordinary session are the main factions in the PLO. They are the factions that constitute the core of the PNC that met in Algiers last April and which consolidated Palestinian national unity.

As for those which have not attended—and they are small groups—they had been invited but the Palestinian national march will not wait for the one whose loyalty has ceased to be to Palestine but to regimes.

[Yakoub] It seems there is a dispute over setting up a confederation with Jordan. Is this true?

[Abu Sharif] The question is not tabled for discussion. As to whether there will be a confederation or not, this is also a premature subject. But we want to note here that the National Council, in successive sessions, has continuously recommended the setting up of privileged relations with Jordan, including the possibility of a confederation between an independent Palestinian state and Jordan.

[Yakoub] The independents too are not attending the uprising session because Israel has forbidden their leaving the occupied Palestinian territories. Who will be the spokesman for those independents at the uprising session?

[Abu Sharif] As a matter of fact, the word independents is irrelevant here. Israel has indeed prevented 186 PNC members from participating, from leaving and participating in this session. These are not independents in the sense of independent. They are members of our National Council; they are an indivisible part of the PLO. As for who represents them, well, this council represents all the Palestinian people. If a member from this or that place is absent owing to force majeure, then those present represent the overall national will of our people everywhere.

[Yakoub] Brother Bassam, How can independence be proclaimed when the Palestinian land is still occupied?

[Abu Sharif] The proclamation of independence will turn the Palestinian occupied [West] Bank and the Gaza Strip into an occupied state. I am not a lawyer but this situation occupies a particular place in international law. After the severing of administrative and legal ties between Jordan and the occupied Palestinian land, it became necessary to define the identity of this land by an official political proclamation, after our people had defined it with blood as their own Palestinian occupied land.

[Yakoub] this means independence will be proclaimed over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

[Abu Sharif] The Palestinian uprising is seeking, and is struggling under PLO leadership, to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is natural that putting an end to this occupation will result in setting up a national authority, a state on this land. This is our national objective for which we are struggling.

[Yakoub] will the proclamation be made through a way other than an international peace conference?

[Abu Sharif] The proclamation concerning a political settlement in the Middle East region is linked with the programs of the PLO. This council will issue a political statement. Council members will discuss the statement, and they will adopt it and issue it at the end of the session. This statement will inevitably deal with the political line along which the PLO will march after the proclamation of national independence.

But we can already say that the view and line of the PLO are very clear. It has shown its readiness to take part in an effective international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council, all the parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to achieve the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian

people, including their right to return, self-determination, and setting up their own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. [end recording]

End to U.S. 'Ban' Sought

LD1311203788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1955 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, Nov 13 (KUNA)—The official spokesman of the current session of the Palestine National Council Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman said here Sunday that the PLO is looking forward for a radical change in the U.S. policy toward the Middle East.

In a press conference here tonight, 'Abd al-Rahman said it is unfair to make a link between terrorism and the PLO and recalled that the PLO had denounced terrorism and issued the Cairo Declaration which condemned terrorism.

He called on the American public opinion in particular and the European public opinion in general to support the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and statehood.

He said the PLO is prepared to meet with American officials to discuss the issue of peace in Palestine at any time and without preconditions.

On the PNC's Political and Uprising Committees, the Palestinian official said they are continuing their meetings and the Uprising Committee has nearly completed its duties wile the Political Committee would end its deliberations and prepare its report late tonight.

He emphasized that the PLO is still asking the U.S. Administration [word indistinct] the term of the President-elect George Bush to abolish the ban set by American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on contacts with the PLO.

He said anew that the independence document would be declared at the closing meeting on November 15.

He disclosed that the PLO is in constant contact with the Soviet leadership on a settlement for the Middle East crisis.

PNSF Issues Warning

JN1411122488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The PNSF command has held a meeting during which it studied the information it has on hand and the reports disseminated by news agencies on the attempts some Palestinian parties are carrying out to have the PNC, currently meeting in Algiers, issue a resolution accepting UN Security Council Resolution No 242

In its statement, the PNSF says: Out of its awareness of its national and pan-Arab responsibilities toward our national cause and our people in and outside the occupied homeland, the PNSF reiterates its abidance by the constants of the Palestinian consensus, foremost of which is the Palestinian National Charter. The PNSF views the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 242 as a cancellation in advance of the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

The PNSF warns against the consequences of taking such a capitulatory step and against the policy of gratuitous concessions, as this will have negative repercussions on our people's uprising in the occupied homeland and on the Palestinian march of struggle in particular and the Arab struggle in general. The PNSF notes that any party that may undertake such a step cannot be the Palestinian people's representative and can neither commit our people nor express their will.

The PNSF ends its statement by saying: The PNSF will take the appropriate steps and make efforts to safeguard our national cause and pursue the Palestinian and Arab struggle until the attainment of our people's objectives of liberating their occupied territory, regaining their inalienable national rights, and foiling this capitulatory step.

'Arafat on U.S. 'Recognition'

NC1411154388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that all Arab countries, with the exception of Syria, have officially informed him of their approval of the step to declare Palestinian independence.

In statements he made today to the Egyptian media team covering the PNC meetings in Algiers, 'Arafat said the issue of the Palestinian government is not being discussed at present and has been deferred.

He added that the expected declaration of the state tomorrow is one of the demands of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Regarding the international position on the PLO, particularly the position of the United States, 'Arafat said the PLO has in fact U.S. recognition and this is represented by the Egyptian-U.S. agreement signed by the Egyptian foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in 1977.

This agreement stipulated U.S. agreement to a joint Arab delegation to the international conference and PLO representation with the other parties, but at a lesser level.

The PLO considers this to be a clear U.S. recognition of the PLO, he added.

Draft Statement on 242

LD1411191588 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1840 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 14 Nov (KUNA)—KUNA has obtained the text of the draft political clause concerning an international conference and Resolution 242, which is currently being debated by the Political Committee of the emergency session of the PNC. The council is expected to approve it tomorrow. Follows the text of the draft resolution:

The PNC, out of a desire for a comprehensive and just peace, in accordance with the declaration of independence, and in response to the international desire to settle regional disputes, reaffirms the resolve of the PLO to achieve a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its central issue—the Palestinian question- - within the framework of the principles and provisions of international legitimacy, international law, UN resolutions, the latest of which is Security Council Resolution 605, and the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, in a manner that guarantees the Palestinian Arab people's right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil and enables the states and peoples of the region to live in security and peace.

The PNC also reaffirms the necessity of convening an effective international conference on the basis of the essence of the issue with the participation of the parties concerned, including the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—and the permanent member states of the Security Council provided that the international conference is convened on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and their implementation, together with the necessity of guaranteeing the national and political rights of the Palestinian Arab people, at the forefront of which is their right to self- determination in accordance with the UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue.

The draft resolution also stipulates the rejection of international terrorism in all its forms.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat declared in reply to a question from KUNA while he was on his way to the Political Committee meeting that the final session of the PNC emergency meeting will be held tomorrow morning.

Independence Draft Approved

LD1411194588 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that during the PNC's discussions today at the hall of the political committee unanimous agreement was reached on the declaration of independence and the formation of the provisional Palestinian government. The correspondent added that the final draft of the declaration of independence and the formation of the government has been approved and that this draft will be submitted for approval to the public session of the PNC. The final draft, which has been agreed upon, contains five points:

1. A provisional government for the State of Palestine will be formed as soon as possible and according to the circumstances and the development of events.

2. The Palestinian Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee will be given a mandate to specify the time of the formation of the provisional government and the PLO Executive Committee will be charged with forming it. The government will be referred to the Central Council for a vote of confidence. The Central Council will adopt the provisional system of rule until the Palestinian people exercise their full sovereignty.

3. The provisional Palestinian government will be formed of Palestinian personalities, leaders, and qualified persons from inside and outside the occupied homeland and on the basis of political multiplicity and what embodies national unity.

4. The provisional government will determine its program on the basis of the PLO's program and the resolutions of the Palestine national councils and the independence document.

5. The PNC will grant the PLO Executive Committee authority and responsibilities of the provisional government until the formation of the government is announced.

In addition the correspondent learned from informed Palestinian sources that the declaration of independence will take place tonight, when the independence document will be read inside the hall where the PNC is meeting. The correspondent also said that brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, will read the text of the document before the PNC members.

It is expected that the political and the intifada committees will complete their work before midnight tonight, when the council will be summoned to hold a public meeting to hear, discuss, and approve the results of the two committees' work.

Algeria To Host First Embassy

JN1411210888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Nov 88

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] We have just learned that Algeria will host the first Palestinian Embassy. The cornerstone of the first embassy of the Palestinian state will be laid at an official ceremony in Algiers tomorrow immediately after the conclusion of the PNC meetings.

PPSF Criticizes Committee

JN1411212488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus, carried within "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A statement by an official source at the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] stresses that the front rejects Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and does not consider them a basis for the resolution of the Palestine question.

The PPSF considers the PNC Political Committee's draft proposal on this subject a violation of the Palestine National Charter. The PPSF stressed its absolute rejection of any reference to Resolutions 242 and 338. In the meantime, its stressed its adherence to Palestinian national unity within the PLO framework.

PNC Sessions Detailed

LD1511004688 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The work of the PNC is going through its final decisive hour. Here is our colleague, Mohamed Chelouch, from the Palais des Nations:

[Chelouch] Everyone here is awaiting the hour of great jubilation, the zero hour for the declaration of the end of the intifada session of the PNC, the historic declaration of the independent Palestinian state, and the hoisting of its flag for the first time. My colleague, Hasan Chayech, has just informed me that the PNC has approved the political statement and that at this very moment the report of the Intifada Committee is being read.

The last session of the Political Committee was adjourned at 2205. The session was long and there was a wide discussion and argument about the contents of the political statement especially with regard to UN Resolution 242. The matter ended with votes on the statement paragraph by paragraph until agreement was reached with regard to all paragraphs of the statement after the introduction of some amendments. The most important clause of the statement is the one concerning the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of the international conference on peace in the Middle East. The draft of this clause is as follows:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Proceeding from the above, the PNC, from a position of responsibility to our Palestinian people and their national rights and desire for peace, in accordance with the declaration of the independence issued on 15/11/88, and in response to the will of mankind striving for the consolidation of international peace, nuclear disarmament, and the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts, reaffirms the PLO's resolve to reach a comprehensive political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its central issue, the Palestinian question, within the framework of the UN Charter, the principles and provisions of international legitimacy, and the basis of international law and UN resolutions, the last of which is Security Council Resolution 87/605, and the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences in a manner guaranteeing the right of the Palestinian Arab people to return and to self-determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their national soil and that lays down the arrangements concerning security and peace for all states of the region.

In realization of all this the PNC reaffirms the necessity of convening an effective international conference on the question of the Middle East and its central issue, the Palestinian question, under UN auspices and with the participation on an equal footing of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council and all parties of the conflict in the region including the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people. [end recording] [Chelouch] As for the paragraph which concerns the the relationship of the international conference with Resolutions 242 and 338 and appendices, the drafting of this paragraph was as follows:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The international conference is held on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and their implementation, guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people headed by their right to self-determination in accordance with the principles and rules of the UN Charter concerning the peoples' right to self- determination and the unlawfulness of seizing the territory of others by force through military invasion and in accordance with UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue. [end recording]

[Chelouch] Thus the PNC proceedings are moving toward Palestinian unanimity on resolutions that display national unity and outline future Palestinian action in a way that bolsters the great achievements of the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland.

Thus, we are now awaiting the hour of the great wedding, as I said previously, which was initially fixed as zero hour of 15 November 1988 when the Palestinian state for the first time comes into being and its flag is hoisted over the soil of Algeria. We will return to this historic event at the time with the radio team.

During the sessions of the Political Committee agreement was reached on laying down the organizational bases of the provisional Palestinian government, bases which define the powers of the state and its jurisdiction as a legal base. It was agreed the government should be formed as soon as possible and in accordance with circumstances and events. The Palestinian Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee should be

authorized to decide the time of forming the government. The time would be decided by the PLO Executive Committee and then it would be submitted to the PNC for a vote of confidence.

The Central Council approves the provisional system of the government until the Palestinian people exercise their complete sovereignty.

We have learned agreement has been reached on the following form. The formation of the provisional government will be formed from the leaders, personalities, and qualified persons from inside and outside the occupied homeland on the basis of political plurality in a way reflecting national unity. The provisional government prepares its program on the basis of the PLO's political program, the resolutions of the National Council, and the independence document.

'Arafat Declares State

LD1511035088 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 0025 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Reading of independence document by Yasir 'Arafat to PNC session in Algiers at the Palais de Nations on 15 November—live]

[Text] The reading of this declaration was supposed to have been made by my brother, our great poet Mahmud Darwish [applause], but he gave me the honor of reading this declaration.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful;

The Declaration of Independence;

On the land of the heavenly messages to mankind, on the land of Palestine, the Palestinian Arab people were born. This people grew up, became developed, and introduced creativity into their human and national existence through an unbreakable and continuous organic relationship between the people and the land and history. And by their epic steadfastness through time, the people of Palestine molded their national identity to a miraculous level.

Despite the ambitions, greed, and invasions which were the outcome of the charm of this old land and its vital position along the borders of engagement among the powers and civilizations—the ambitions, greed, and invasions which used to lead to depriving the people of realizing political independence—the everlasting adherence of the people to the land granted the land its identity and breathed into the people the spirit of the homeland, fortified by the dynasties of civilizations and the multiplicity of cultures, inspired by their spiritual and historic heritage.

The Palestinian Arab people throughout history continued to develop itself by total unity between the land and man. Following in the continuous footsteps of the prophets on this blessed land, they raised their voices from every minaret with prayers of thanks to the Creator and rang the bell of every church and temple and sang hymns of mercy and peace. From one generation to another, the Palestinian Arab people never stopped their valiant defense of their homeland. The successive revolutions of our people were a heroic embodiment of the will of national independence.

At a time when the modern world was formulating a new value system, the local and international balances of power were leaving aside the Palestinan fate from the general fate. It became clear yet again that justice alone does not turn the wheels of history. Thus the great Palestinian wound was ripped open to witness a wounding difference—the people who were deprived of independence and whose homeland was subjected to a new type of occupation have been subjected to an attempt to publicize the lie which says that Palestine is a land without people.

Despite this historic falsification, the international community, in Article 22 of the Charter of the League of Nations of 1919 and in the Lausanne Treaty of 1923, recognized that the Palestinian Arab people—like the rest of the Arab people which cut their relations with the Ottoman state—are a free and independent people. Despite the historical injustice which was inflicted on the Palestinian Arab people by making them homeless and by depriving them of their right to self-determination following the resolution passed by the UN General Assembly, No 181 of 1947, which partitioned Palestine into two states—an Arab state and a Jewish state—this resolution still provides conditions for international legitimacy to guarantee the right of the Palestinian Arab people to sovereignty and national independence.

The Israeli forces' occupation of Palestinian territory and parts of Arab territory, the uprooting of the majority of the Palestinians and scattering them away from their homeland by organized terrorism, the subjection of the rest of them to occupation and oppression, and the operations to destroy the characteristics of their national life are flagrant violations of the principles of legitimacy and of the United Nations Charter and its resolutions which recognize the national rights of the Arab Palestinian people, including the right to return and the right to self-determination, independence, and sovereignty on the land of their homeland.

Neither in the heart of the homeland nor at its boundaries nor near or far have the Arab Palestinian people lost their firm faith in the right to return nor their solid conviction in the right to independence. The occupation, massacres, and dispersal could not expel the Palestinian from his awareness or deprive him of his identity. He continued his epic struggle and pursued the crystallization of his national personality through the growing accumulation of militancy. The national will defined its political framework in the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole and legitimate representative of the

Palestinian people with the recognition of the international community represented by the United Nations and its institutions and other regional and international organizations.

On the basis of faith in inalienable rights, on the basis of pan-Arab unanimity, and on the basis of international legitimacy, the Palestinian Liberation Organization led the battles of its great people who are fused in their ideal national unity and their legendary steadfastness in the face of massacres and sieges in the homeland and outside it. The epic of the national Palestinian resistance manifested itself in Arab awareness and international awareness of it as one of the most prominent national liberation movements in this era. The great and escalating popular uprising in the occupied land, along with legendary steadfastness in the camps inside and outside the homeland, has raised human awareness of the Palestinian truth and Palestinian national rights to a higher level of absorption and maturity. It has drawn the final curtain on a complete stage of falsification and a languid conscience; it has encircled the official Israeli mentality, which became addicted to myth and terror in denying Palestinian existence.

With the uprising and the revolutionary and militant accumulation of all the revolutionary positions, the Palestinian time has reached one of the important historic turning points so the Palestinian Arab people may once again affirm their inalienable rights as well as their right to exercise them over its Palestinian soil.

On the basis of the natural, historic, and legal right of the Palestinian Arab people to its homeland, Palestine, and the sacrifices of its successive generations in defense of the freedom and independence of their homeland and proceeding from the resolutions of the Arab summits and from the strength of international legality, embodied in UN resolutions since 1947, and in exerecising the right to self-determination and political independence and sovereignty over their soil by the Palestinian Arab people, the PNC declares in the name of God and in the name of the Palestinian Arab people the establishment [qiyam] of the State of Palestine over our Palestinian soil—over our Palestinian soil—and its capital holy Jerusalem [applause and chants]... the PNC declares in the name of God and in the name of the Palestinian Arab people, the emergence of the State of Palestine over our Palestinian soil and its capital holy Jerusalem.

The State of Palestine belongs to Palestinians wherever they may be. And in it they develop their national and cultural identity and enjoy complete equality of rights and religious and political beliefs and human dignity are safeguarded in the shadow of a democratic parliamentary system based on the freedom of opinion and the freedom of forming parties [applause and chants], on the majority taking care of the rights of the minority, on the respect of the minority for the decisons of the majority, and on social justice and equality and nondiscrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, or sex, [applause and chants] in the shadow of a constitution which ensures the rule of law and independence of the judiciary [applause and chants]... in the shadow of a constitution which ensures the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and on the basis of complete loyalty to the spiritual and contemporary heritage of Palestine—tolerance and tolerant coexistence of religions throughout the centuries.

The State of Palestine is an Arab state. It is an indivisible part of the Arab nation—from its heritage and civilization and from its present aspiration for the realization of its aims of liberation, development, democracy, and unity. While it stresses its commitment to the Arab League Charter and its insistence to consolidate joint Arab action, it appeals to the sons of its nation to assist it to complete its practical birth by mobilizing energies and concentrating efforts to end the Israeli occupation.

The State of Palestine declares its commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations and to the international declaration of human rights, as well as its commitment to the principles of nonalignment and the latter's policy.

The State of Palestine, while declaring it is a peace-loving state, committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence, will work with all states and peoples for the realization of a permanent peace based on justice and respect for rights. Under the auspices of this peace the energies of mankind will be opened up to construction and under the auspices of this peace there will be competition for the beautification of life without fear from what tomorrow might bring, as tomorrow does not hold but security for those who are just or lean toward justice.

In the course of its struggle for the establishment of peace on the land of love and peace, the State of Palestine calls on the United Nations—which shoulders a special responsibility toward the Palestinian Arab people and its homeland—and calls on the peoples of the world and their peace and freedom-loving states to assist it to realize its aims and put an end to the tragedy of its people by providing it with security and by working to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands.

It also declares in this respect that it believes in the settlement of international and regional problems by peaceful means according to the UN Charter and its resolutions, and that it rejects threats to use force, violence, or terrorism or to use these against its territorial integrity and its political independence or the territorial integrity of any other state, without infringing its own natural right to defend its own territories and independence.

On this immortal day—15 November 1988—while standing on the threshold of a new era, we solemnly bow out of respect before the spirits of our martyrs and the martyrs of the Arab nation, who with their pure blood lit the torch of this stubborn dawn and were martyred so the homeland could live, and raise our hearts on our palms

to fill them with the light coming from the blessed intifada and from the epic of those standing their ground in the camps, in diaspora, and in exile and those carrying the standard of freedom—our children, our old people, and our youth, as well as our people who have been taken prisoner, our detainees, and our wounded who are living on the sacred soil in every camp, in every village, and in every town, and the brave Palestinian woman—the guardian of our existence and our life and the guardian of our eternal fire.

We vow to our heroic martyrs and the masses of our Palestinian Arab people, our Arab nation, and all the upright free men in the world to continue the struggle for the removal of occupation and entrenching sovereignty and independence.

We call on our great people to rally around their Palestinian flag—to rally around their Palestinian flag [applause] and to take pride in it and defend it so it will remain forever a symbol of our freedom and our dignity in a homeland that will always remain a free homeland of a nation of free men. [applause]

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Say: O God! Lord of power. Thou givest power to whom thou pleasest and thou strippest power from whom thou pleasest; thou embuest with honor whom thou pleasest and thou bringest low whom thou pleasest. In thy hand is all good; verily over all things thou hast power. [applause and chants]

Mubarak Supports 'Reasonable' PNC Resolution

NC1511110488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reiterated Egypt's support for the Palestinian people. In a statement he made after inaugurating the Conference of African Socialist and Democratic Parties today, he said: We support any reasonable resolution passed by the PLO. We are waiting until we read all the resolutions passed by the PNC, currently in session in Algiers. Mubarak asserted that Egypt always backs the Palestinian cause with all its capabilities and that it will never abandon this cause.

'Abd al-Majid on Recognition

NC1511115988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1133 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that Egypt will make a decision later on the recognition of the Palestinian state in light of the resolutions of the PNC, currently meeting in Algiers.

In a statement to reporters today, after the opening session of the African Socialist and Democratic Parties Conference, 'Abd al-Majid stressed the need for an international conference for peace to be convened, with the aim of reaching a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem within the framework of the UN resolutions and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, in light of Resolution No 242, particularly now that the PNC has accepted this resolution at its latest meeting.

'Abd al-Majid referred to President Husni Mubarak's statement, in which he stressed, that Egypt supports and agrees with any decision by the Palestinian people to resolve the Palestinian issue peacefully, backs all responsible and rational trends, and is waiting to receive all the resolutions passed by the PNC conference so that it may define its views.

Support for PNC Declaration Announced

NC1511144388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 15 Nov 88

[text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Egypt has announced its support for the declaration of the Palestinian state which aims at achieving peace, at the convening of an international conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, at ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and at renouncing terrorism.

Egypt also affirmed that the establishment of the Palestinian state is an important step toward achieving a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis in agreement with all the parties to the conflict to establish security and stability in the region.

This came in a statement which Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, released today.

The text of the Egyptian Government's statement, which was released by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, follows:

The Palestinian people have struggled for years to achieve their legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state within the framework of international legitimacy.

In light of the decision made at the PNC extraordinary session in Algiers to declare the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, on the basis of international legitimacy, as a democratic state which will abide by the UN Charter, human rights, and nondiscrimination among its citizens, and which will seek peace and goodneighborliness with all the countries of the world without exception, the Arab Republic of Egypt, in conformity with its firm and declared positions regarding support for the Palestinian people, declares its support for the declaration of the Palestinian state, which aims at achieving peace, at the convening an international conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, at ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and at renouncing terrorism.

Egypt affirms that the establishment of the Palestinian state is an important step toward achieving a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis, in agreement with all the parties to the conflict, to establish security and stability in the region.

Al-Baz on 'Necessary' Palestinian Declaration

NC1311210588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, emphasized today that a declaration of the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a necessary step to give momentum to peace efforts in the area and to exploit the Palestinian uprising to realize the Palestinian people's political rights.

Dr al-Baz said that a declaration for the establishment of this state must be realistic so that it will constitute a challenge to Israel with regard to its stand on peace.

During his meeting with the editorial staff of the Abu Dhabi news paper AL-ITTIHAD, Dr al-Baz called on the Arab states to open a dialogue with the administration of President-elect George Bush and to take advantage of his relations with many Arab states and his awareness of the region's issues so that the Middle East issue will be given top priority by the new U.S. administration and put on the agenda of the Washington-Moscow talks.

On Defense of Arab States

NC1311213188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Nov (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has declared that Egypt will not hesitate for a moment to support any fraternal Arab state which is subjected to Israeli aggression.

He added: The provisions of international law and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty do not prevent us from giving this support. It is our Arab identity which governs our concepts, ties, and commitments. Egypt's commitments to its Arab sisters outweigh any other commitments to any other side.

In a lecture he delivered at the cultural compound in Abu Dhabi this evening, Dr al-Baz maintained that Egypt's defense capability is part of the Arab all-out defensive system and this does not affect its relations with Israel or others. He emphasized Egypt's never ending belief that the Gulf region's security is part of Egypt's security. This is not only because of Egypt's distinguished and special relations with the Arab Gulf states, but also because these states represent part of a homeland which we consider one.

He pointed out that to refrain from giving support to any fraternal Arab state in its ordeal would mean that Egypt was allowing the Arab body to be weakened, and Egypt will never allow this.

Dr 'Usamah al-Baz said that if Israel procrastinated in implementing the Tabah ruling, which returns the area to Egyptian sovereignty, Egypt will employ provisions in the peace treaty and international law that are sufficient for restoration of Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah.

Egypt, Al-Baz, said, has established an important principle through the Tabah ruling; namely, that Arab territories under Israeli occupation should be liberated in full. This principle applies to the Syrian Golan Heights, the West Bank, and Gaza, Al-Baz said.

Dr al-Baz hailed the initiative by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to save Lebanon from its predicament. Egypt supports and appreciates this initiative, Al-Baz said, expressing the hope that an Arab summit will be held soon to save Lebanon from the specter of partition. Al-Baz said that such a summit should be preceded by careful preparation by Arab foreign ministers. There must be agreement, Al-Baz explained, on common ground concerning the formula for constitutional reforms that are acceptable to all sections of the Lebanese people.

Dr al-Baz described the work of the GCC as a shining example helping to bring about Arab unity.

Al-Baz said the Arab nation is currently going through a completely new era, a matter which, Al-Baz added, calls for a revision of our Arab national objectives.

Over 1,000 people packed the main auditorium of the cultural compound in Abu Dhabi to listen to the lecture. Among these were senior UAE officials and Ahmad Qadri 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's ambassador to the UAE.

On PNC Meeting, 'Uprising'

NC1411151288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, has said that the PNC currently meeting in Algiers must provide real support for the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories by turning it into a clever political movement that can make the Palestinian dream reality.

He added that the PNC resolutions must realistically express this uprising's aims of rejecting the Israeli occupation and achieving peace and stability in the region by establishing a strong Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that is capable of shouldering its international responsibilities.

In an interview with Abu Dhabi television, Dr al-Baz said that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories is a very important development in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that it has succeeded in putting Israel for the first time, and also the international community, face to face with a challenge that cannot be ignored. He underlined Egypt's continued and unlimited backing for the Palestinian issue on the basis of the unity of responsibility and destiny between Egypt and the Palestinians. He noted that Egypt has utilized all its diplomatic effforts to serve this issue.

Dr al-Baz stressed that Egypt has never exerted pressure on the PLO, neither at present nor in the past, and that it has never tried to create a Palestinian group inside the Palestinian movement to speak on its behalf or express its view. He added that Egypt believed and continues to believe that this movement should be wholly Palestinian.

Regarding Tabah, he stressed that Egypt has the necessary means to implement the interantional ruling that Tabah is Egyptian if Israel procrastinates in its implementation. He noted that, with this ruling, Egypt has established an important principle; namely, that the Arab territories occupied by Israel must be completely liberated without the loss of a single inch, whether this territory is the Golan Heights or the West Bank and Gaza.

He called on the Arab countries to achieve some degree of Arab solidarity, regardless of the ideological differences between one country and another. He said that the

current stage requires all the Arabs to united their ranks and to be in the same trench to confront all challenges, particularly the challenge of protecting the pan-Arab security. He stressed that Egypt, as part of the Arab defense system, will not hesitate a single moment in supporting any fraternal Arab country that is subjecated to an Israeli aggression.

It is recalled that Dr al-Baz has been visitng the UAE since last Friday.

Views Ties With Algeria, Libya

NC1411212588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2047 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 14 Nov (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has criticized the statements which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made recently about aborting the idea of a Palestinian state when it is established.

In a statement he made after a luncheon given in his honor by the Emirates University in the city of Al-'Ayn today, Dr al-Baz said that if Shamir truly wants peace, he should make peace instead of what he says about imposing specific Israeli solutions that are considered a distortion of and departure from the Camp David formula.

On the Tabah issue, Dr al-Baz emphasized that the Egyptian Government insists on abiding by the sound legal rules without any change. He said that a detailed statement on the necessary steps for implementing these rules will be issued.

Dr al-Baz described the Egyptian-Algerian relations as strong and improving. He said that Egypt is interested in what is happening in Algeria and believes that the Algerian people's stability and the achievement of their development goals constitute stability for the Arab world.

On Egyptian-Libyan relations, Dr al-Baz said that the propaganda campaigns between the two countries have ceased, indicating that this will lead to other steps. He said that the airlines of the two states have been permitted to resume flights between the two countries.

Soviet Ambassador on PNC Session, Other Issues

NC1411124788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—USSR Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has expressed the hope that the PNC, currently in session in Algiers, will adopt realistic decisions which will lead to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The Soviet ambassador held a news conference at noon today to talk about political changes in the Soviet Union. He said that the decisions that the PNC adopts will gain the full support of the Soviet Union, as well as that of the entire world.

Asked about the French-Soviet initiative on the Middle East, the Soviet ambassador stressed that all future steps toward a peaceful settlement in the region will depend on the decisions taken by the PNC.

Zhuravlev expressed his country's willingness to study any initiatives or suggestions which would lead to a peaceful settlement. He noted that his country has no objection to taking part in the preparatory committee for an international peace conference. Nor does it object to the participation of the superpowers as a guarantee for gaining the support of all parties concerned during negotiations, he stated. He said: We do not object to holding contacts with the Israeli authorities because we want to find ways to solve the Middle East problem.

Replying to a question on the Soviet Union's stand on the establishment of a Palestinian state, the Soviet ambassador said his country's stand has not changed. He added: We are guided by Resolution No 181 and by everything relating to the formula which the PNC adopts regarding an independent state.

Commenting on the halting of the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan, Zhuravlev asserted that the withdrawal has not stopped and that all the steps are being taken within the framework of the Geneva Accords, which stipulate the withdrawal of the Soviet forces by 15 February. He noted that 50 percent of the troops had withdrawn according to the timetable drawn up.

On the resumption of quadripartite negotiations on southern Africa, the ambassador voiced his hope that negotiations will open the way for peaceful coexistence and the independence of Namibia.

Asked about Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt, he asserted that Shevardnadze will visit the Middle East in the next few months and that Egypt will be among the first countries on his itinerary.

Papers View Proclamation of Palestinian State

NC1511084388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH newspapers question the stand of Likud bloc leader Yitzhaq Shamir and his associates in light of the fact that some 140 countries wil declare their recognition of the independent Palestinian state after the PNC proclaims it. In their editorials today, the two papers say that at a time when the world is waiting for the declaration of the Palestinian state we find that the

Israeli rightist parties have officially declared their desire to ally with the intransigent Likud in clinging to Golda Me'ir's old myth that there is no such thing as the Palestinian people.

AL-AKHBAR notes that all the Israeli leaders' pretexts and excuses to justify their opposition to the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinian people on their own soil are desperate attempts to continue the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to resume the setting up of Jewish settlements as a preparation for devouring the rest of the Palestinian homeland and expanding the territory of Israel.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR points out that the lessons of past and contemporary history have proved that the consequences of extremism are violence and destruction and that victory eventually goes to those who have right on their side, stick to it, and defend it.

For its part, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that, at a time when the world is waiting for the declaration of the Palestinian state, we find that the Israeli rightist parties have officially declared their desire to ally with the intransigent Likud and request that Yitzhaq Shamir be asked to form a new Israeli Government.

The paper notes that no effort is needed to realize that we are witnessing a situation in which moderation and extremism are face to face with each other, and in which moderation is embodied in the reasonable and responsible stand of the Palestinians. Yasir 'Arafat has succeeded for the first time in presenting the Palestinian Parliament with the option of the olive branch side by side with the rifle, and in persuading the Palestinian factions to accept Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, thus extending to the proclamation of the Palestinian state on the basis of Resolution No 181, from which Israel derives its entity and legitimacy.

The paper says that the Palestinian stand paves the way for a major political move to gain world recognition and to consolidate Arab commitment to the independence of the Palestinian state. The paper notes that extremism is demonstrated by Shamir, who rejects a peaceful settlement and the idea of an international peace conference which the world community has agreed upon. Shamir, it adds, also refuses to negotiate with the Palestinians or to recognize the PLO despite the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Shamir has promised his extremist allies that he will practice more oppression and use violence, expulsion, detention, and the demolition of houses as his methods to halt the uprising in the occupied territories, which has been raging for the past 12 months. In conclusion, the paper asserts that victory will eventually be for those who have right on their side, stick to it, and defend it.

Libya

Memorandum Submitted to UN on U.S. Allegations

LD1511105488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0945 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli 15 Nov (JANA)—The secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison sent a memorandum last night to the UN secretary general on the U.S. Administration's allegations that the Great Socialist and People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah produces and owns chemical weapons. The following is the text of the memorandum:

The U.S. Administration continues its allegations accusing the Great Socialist and People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah of producing and owning chemical weapons. The Great Socialist and People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, which has already been the victim of a treacherous U.S. aggression which the international community now knows was carried out upon false reasons, reaffirms that such an accusation falls within the framework of a new campaign whose propagators are aiming to use it to create pretexts for a new aggression.

The Great Socialist and People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah reaffirms that all the aforementioned reasons call upon the international community and international public opinion to understand the real reasons behind this new campaign so as they might not be, once again, the victims of deception. While insisting on this it reaffirms:

First: It categorically denies the aforementioned U.S. allegations and reaffirms that it has never been its intention to produce any new kind of chemical weapons, a matter which has previously been asserted in the brother leader of the revolution's statements and the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison's communique of 26 October 1988.

Second: It recalls that it is a party signatory to the 1925 Geneva protocol and the agreements banning the use, production and storage of bacteriological, "biological," and toxic weapons and calls upon other countries, which have not yet signed them, to join them as soon as possible.

Third: It renews its commitment to the relevant international agreements and resolutions and calls upon all members of the international community to respect them, recalling in this respect, its continuous desire to bolster all United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] resolutions on chemical weapons.

Fourth: It reaffirms its readiness to take part in any international effort that might ban the production, storage, and the use of chemical and biological weapons as well as all other weapons of total annihilation.

Fifth: It warns the international community against the dangers of any new racist aggression the U.S. Administration might carry out against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, whether on its own or with the participation of the racist Zionist entity, its strategic ally in the region.

Sixth: It urges the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities stipulated by the UN charter to safeguard international peace and security. Please circulate this memorandum as a UNGA official document.

'Malicious Allegations' Viewed

LD1511092688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 14 Nov (JANA)—The U.S. Administration continues the campaign of malice and deception against the Great Jamahiriyah in language that has become customary. [passage omitted]

JANA's local affairs editor explained the failure of the Reagan administration throughout the past years to downgrade the great achievements of the Great Jamahiriyah day after day at all levels-Arab, African, and human. It also failed in its attempts to create confusion at these victories out of rancor as it saw all its terrorist schemes and plots fail utterly in the face of international awakening to its terrorist policy and imperialist hegemony and also in the face of the growing role of the Al-Fatih revolution in arousing nations that aspire to freedom and want to rise up against hegemony, domination, and colonialist and imperialist terrorism.

For the U.S. Administration to raise the so-called Libyan construction of a chemical weapons factory once again confirms the repetitive tone of the U.S. Administration, as we said before. This is because of the fact that despite our affirmations that this factory is for making drugs the U.S. Administration finds no problem in reiterating its comment through its official radio, which expresses the viewpoint of the U.S. Administration. [passage omitted]

In the face of the Jamahiriyah's categorical rebuttal of these malicious allegations on the grounds that the Jamahiriyah always strives for the happiness of mankind and the advancement of nations and as the Jamahiriyah openly antagonizes the hegemony and domination of this administration over the nations that have been fighting to realize happiness and progress, we believe that the persistence of the U.S. Administration in reiterating such allegations is nothing but a ring in the chain of aggression and terrorism against the Libyan people.

It shows that the Reagan administration as an example of dictatorship known to this age has committed a series of follies without any pangs of conscience or concern for international responsibility. Its continued leveling of malicious allegations against the Great Jamahiriyah comes as part of a new campaign to justify other terrorist aggressive acts which will have dire consequences on world peace and security.

The editor explained that the Great Jamahiriyah calls on the international community and the world public to grasp the true aims behind the new campaign so that they may not fall victim to misrepresentation and one-upmanship once again. [passage omitted]

'Comprehensive Measures' Taken Against Attacks

LD1411195188 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1506 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nov 14 (TANJUG)—The Libyan military command has taken comprehensive measures to protect military and industrial facilities of strategic importance from possible land and air attacks.

As a further precaution, all persons employed in these facilities or living nearby are under strict supervision.

Further, the special committee for the "security and protection of industrial facilities" has held an urgent meeting working out a plan for safeguarding the most important facilities.

The latest steps of the Libyan leadership are aimed at organising defence against possible Israeli or American attacks in the wake of frequent U.S. charges against Libya. The U.S. Administration claims that Libya is about to put into operation the largest chemical weapons factory in the Near and Middle East.

The Voice of America radio station this morning charged, for the fourth time in a month, that the factory for the production of poisonous gases and other lethal chemical substances, located south-west of Tripoli, is nearly finished.

Washington warns that the matter involves a "perilous development" and that Libya could supply deathly weapons to third, "terrorist parties."

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dismisses the U.S. accusations as a new round of psychological warfare against his country. He claims that the factory will be producing medicaments and that Libya will use "all weapons" to defend it and other vital facilities against a "possible land or air attack."

Sudan

SPLM, DUP Leaders Meet in Addis Ababa

EA1311225788 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Discussions were held at the Saba Hall of the Ghion Hotel today on the basic proposals of the meeting between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement

[SPLM] and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], which is expected to officially open tomorrow. The meeting took place between DUP Secretary General Mr Sa'id Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and Colonel John Garang, leader of the SPLM.

Delegations from the two sides, who are meeting to discuss ways of bringing about peace in the Sudan by solving its existing internal problems, will hold frank discussions and are expected to pass resolutions.

It has been stated that the creation of a forum for the two sides to meet in Addis Ababa shows the PDRE's sincere desire to see that the people of Sudan have peace and that their prosperity is ensured.

Ties With Kenya in 'Frightening Deterioration'

EA1311205788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] In our political commentary today, we present to you what the newspaper AL-SUDANI has written. Under the title: "Sudanese-Kenyan Relations," AL-SUDANI said:

Sudanese-Kenyan relations are undergoing a frightening deterioration due to Kenya pursuing a hostile course in respect of Sudanese sovereignty, extending as far as its attempt to impose its influence over part of Sudanese territory. They have been greedy in exploiting the wealth of this region in addition to supporting the rebel movement materially and morally.

Kenya's hostility proceeds from certain considerations, the most important of which is its dissatisfaction with Sudan's Arab-Islamic orientation, because Kenya sees itself as the protector of Christianity and as the Vatican of Africa.

This logic is not strange for Kenya, which has failed to disengage and free itself from the vestiges of colonialism. It is trying hard to defend Western culture, as is shown by the fact that Kenya's economy is controlled by foreign exporters. This applies even to the small handicraft industries while Kenyan citizens languish in abject poverty and terrible misery.

Neither Moi nor his predecessor have succeeded in achieving any form of social or economic balance for the good of his people.

Kenya has no entitlement to its claims on the Elemi Triangle, which is rich in gold and uranium and is situated west of Nabrus and inhabited by the tribes of the Toposa, (Bobya) and the Didinga of Sudan.

This region is governed by Sudanese laws, and has a military post and a police post. During colonialism, the pastoral Kenyan Turkana tribe would cross the Sudanese border strip to graze. This persuaded the British authorities at the time to persuade the two sides to sign an agreement by means of which the Sudanese Government was to maintain law and order and in return Kenya had to make a financial settlement—this was done in 1914. In 1950, following the redrawing of the border, the text of the agreement stated that Sudan owned the region.

God be thanked for adversities, since the dispute drew our attention to the potential wealth of a neglected area of Sudanese territory. And now it is time to thank God for His blessings and it is up to us to exploit these blessings—blessings to ambitious peoples.

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Recognizes Palestinian State

LD1511103988 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] A statement by the Foreign Affairs Ministry: Proceeding from Kuwait's absolute faith in, and its firm and principled commitment to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, Kuwait supports and blesses the PNC resolution proclaiming an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

This resolution was adopted at its 19th extraordinary session during its historic meeting in Algeria between 12 and 14 November 1988 and Kuwait declares its recognition of this Palestinian state. Kuwait hopes that this state will fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the fraternal Palestinian people, establishing their independent national identity on their national soil.

Oman

Jordan's King Husayn Visits During Gulf Tour

JN0911173088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Muscat—His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Muscat this evening on a 2-day working visit to the Sultanate of Oman within his Gulf tour. Heading those welcoming his majesty was His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman.

Confers With Sultan Qabus

JN0911184588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Talks between Their Majesties King Husayn and Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman began in Muscat this evening. The talks deal with the new developments in the Arab arena and the developments in the Arabian Gulf in addition to bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries.

Departs 11 Nov

JN1111130088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1202 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Muscat, 11 Nov (WAKH)—Jordanian monarch King Husayn left Muscat this afternoon after a visit to the Sultanate of Oman within the framework of a tour of the region.

His Majesty Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id was at the forefront of those seeing him off along with high ranking Omani officials.

During his visit, the Jordanian monarch held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id dealing with means of promoting bilateral relations and all the events in the Arab and international arenas.

Qatar

PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Makes Visit

Confers With Minister of State

JN0811165088 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 8 (GNA)—Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani conferred here today with the Assistant Chinese Foreign Minister Xiang Fou Chang on bilateral relations and means of boosting them.

The meeting which was attended by Qatari Foreign Undersecretary Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani and Chinese ambassador to the UAE Hu Changlin also covered a number of issues of mutual interest to the two countries. The Chinese official arrived here yesterday on a five-day visit to Qatar.

Meets With Heir Apparent

JN0911161388 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 9 (GNA)—Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn Khalifah Al Thani received here today Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xiang Fou Chang who is currently visiting Qatar.

During the meeting steps for enhancing bases of establishing relations between the two countries through mutual cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples were reviewed. Views were also exchanged on a number of current Arab and international issues.

On Mideast Stand, Relations

JN1011122488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 10 Nov (WAKH)—Xiang Fou Chang, PRC deputy foreign minister, has lauded his country's relations with Qatar, describing them as good and successful. He pointed out that his recent visit to Doha as well as the visit to Beijing last September by Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, Qatari Foreign Ministry under secretary, have increased opportunities to enhance and consolidate relations between the two countries, particularly following the exchange of diplomatic representation.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, the PRC official expected that bilateral relations will witness great development in the future in various fields, particularly the economic field. He reaffirmed his country's full backing and support for the Palestinian people's just struggle to regain their legitimate rights to their homeland.

He pointed out that the Palestinian people's cause is the essence of the Middle East conflict. He said his country's stand on the Middle East problem is based on three main

issues: The need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, the regaining of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and the right of all regional states to existence and independence.

The PRC official voiced his country's readiness to positively contribute to the various proposed plans and initiatives to resolve the Middle East problem, particularly the issue of an international peace conference on condition that it be attended by the PLO as a basic party.

Regarding the ongoing peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran, the PRC official urged both parties to show a spirit of understanding and dialogue in order to resolve all pending problems as a prelude to attaining a just and comprehensive solution to the entire conflict. He pointed out that his country's relations with both parties to the negotiations and with all Gulf states are good and balanced.

Meets Again With State Minister

JN1011153888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 10 Nov (WAKH)—A round of talks was held in Doha this morning between the PRC and Qatar. Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, headed the Qatari side to the talks; Xiang Fou Chang, PRC vice minister of foreign affairs, led the PRC side.

The talks, attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, dealt with bilateral relations, ways to promote and develop them, the Middle East conflict, the ongoing Geneva Iraq-Iran peace negotiations, and issues of common interest.

Departs 11 Nov

JN1111212288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 11 Nov (WAKH)—Xiang Fou Chang, PRC vice minister of foreign affairs, and his delegation left Doha this evening after a 5-day visit to Qatar. During the visit, the Chinese official and Qatari officials discussed how to step up cooperation in various spheres as well as matters of common interest.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Addresses Fourth General People's Congress

JN1311121888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The fourth conference of the General People's Congress [GPC] began in Al-Shawkani Hall in the Police Academy yesterday. The conference is chaired by the GPC Secretary General Brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdalah Salih.

The opening session was attended by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, representatives of the heads of political groupings and parties in the fraternal and friendly countries, and the heads of the diplomatic missions of the fraternal and friendly countries accredited to our country.

GPC Secretary General Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih delivered a speech at the beginning of the conference. [passage omitted]

Brother Col President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih then asked Brother Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of the GPC permanent committee, to read the report the GPC secretary general has submitted to the fourth GPC conference on the activities and various configurations of the GPC during the period between the third and fourth General People's Congresses. [passage omitted]

In the field of defense and security, the report refers to the serious efforts that have been made to mobilize all national potentialities in service of the battle of civilization, to embody the sublime objectives of the immortal September revolution, and to embed the Armed Forces structure on qualitative rather than quantitative bases through the choice of the best methods of training and modernization of the Armed Forces in terms of training, armamemt, and organization so that they can always perform their national, pan-Arab, and Islamic duties. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary general's report touched on the unity steps that have been achieved since the third GPC conference, which are based on the contents and objectives emphasized by the national charter, the political action program, and the resolutions adopted by the third GPC conference affirming the inevitability of unity, the need to double unity efforts, and the efforts to adopt practical and procedural measures that will bring closer the day when the unitary state will be declared. The report emphasizes that these resolutions and recommendations have given a strong push forward to unity action, which has accomplished many unity steps through peaceful and democratic means. [passage omitted]

On the level of our country's foreign policy, the report says that during the period between the two congresses, our people have embodied the objectives and principles of our immortal revolution and have translated the contents of the national charter through our country's foreign policy. This policy is based on openness and cooperation with all countries within the framework of mutual respect, integrated cooperation, and the service of the basic interests of the country, as well as its political and economic independence. This foreign policy is also based on a commitment to the policy of positive neutrality and nonalignment with respect to world conflicts.

The report explains that our country has good and advanced relations with the fraternal Arab countries and maintains a principled and explicit stand on all Arab

issues. This has enabled our country to perform a positive role with the Arab brothers in clearing the Arab atmosphere, achieving unity of ranks, and enhancing Arab solidarity.

The report points out that our country's belief in the unity of Arab objectives and fate has made it adopt quick steps to continue its efforts to attain a unified Arab stand to enable the Arab nation to confront all the challenges and perils engulfing it and achieve pan-Arab interests. The report stresses that the attainment of the noble objectives to which our Arab nation aspires can only take place through solidarity, harmony, and sincere and serious cooperation among the political leaderships in the entire Arab homeland.

The report says: We will work to achieve the largest possible degree of Arab cooperation and coordination on all levels, affirming that we will continue to abide by and enhance our primary unity organization, the Arab League, and eliminate all that will lead to weakening its role in the various fields of Arab cooperation—political, economic, or military.

The report emphasizes the importance and need to convene Arab summits regularly and at the dates set for them.

The report refers to our country's continued support for and its moral and financial assistance to the Palestinian revolution. It notes our country's moves in the international arena to garner support for the Palestinian people's cause through extensive diplomatic activities, numerous meetings, and emphasis on the appropriate and practical framework to attain a just and lasting peace in the region resting in the convocation of an international conference to be attended by the UN Security Council's permanent members and the parties concerned, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative [words indistinct] affirming that peace can be achieved in the region only through a just solution to the Palestinian problem in a manner that will enable the Palestinian people to realize all their legitimate national rights, including their right to repatriation and self-determination on their national soil.

The report adds that our country incessantly affirms its support for and its moral amd material assistance to the Palestinian popular uprising, which has expressed the Palestinian popular decision to reject occupation and insist on regaining usurped rights.

On the Iraq-Iran war, the report explains that our country has supported the two countries' acceptance of the cease-fire decision to end their conflict according to UN Security Council Resolution No 598. Our country believes that the initiation of direct negotiations between the two countries to attain a just peace between them opens new vistas for the establishment of peace and security in the region, a step that will ward off from the region the perils of war and destruction, end the state of tension, and prevent foreign interference in the region. The report says that our country affirms in this respect the importance of pursuing direct negotiations between the two countries and calls on them to proceed with these negotiations to attain their objectives of attaining a just peace.

On the Lebanese issue, the report explains that our country stresses the need to establish peace, achieve accord in fraternal Lebanon, and safeguard its unity and Arab affiliation as Lebanon continues to experience a tribulation that has lasted more than 13 years as a result of the Zionist-imperialist conspiracies seeking to fragment its unity and violate its sovereignty. The report adds that our country supports the Lebanese popular struggle in southern Lebanon and the heroic operations by the Lebanese people against the Zionist military presence to liberate their territory. The report says that our country stresses the need to liberate the other Arab territories that the Zionist enemy occupies.

The report also stresses our country's solidarity with and support for any fraternal country whose security is subjected to outside aggression and emphasizes its belief in the importance of cooperation among the Islamic countries, the adoption of a policy of nonaligment, and the establishment of balanced retations with all countries of the world in addition to exercising an independent policy toward any international event [words indistinct] to attain national and pan-Arab interests.

The report also notes our country's participation in the conferences of the Nonaligned Movement and the Group of 77 as well as its endeavors to establish a new world economic system that is based on equality between advanced and developing countries that will secure the establishment of integrated economic relations. The report also points to our country's role in the sphere of safeguarding world peace and security, its emphasis on the need to settle conflicts among nations through peaceful means and methods, and its rejection of aggression in all its forms and the forcible usurpation of the land of others.

The report adds that our country supports the efforts to prevent the militarization of space, ban nuclear weapons, noting that our country blesses the USSR initiative in this respect, and condemns the policy of racial discrimination. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Expresses Views on Gulf War, Peace Talks

AU1411191588 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 14 Nov 88 pp 194-199

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by unidentified reporter; date, place not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr Minister, why has the Iraqi Army used the cease-fire with Iran to launch an annihilation campaign against the Kurds?

'Aziz: The reproach that we are waging a war of annihilation against the Kurds is unjustified. We merely ended a revolt which has been smoldering in Northern Iraq for some time now. Formerly Kurdish leader Mustafa el-Barsani [name as published] allied with the shah of Iran, Israel, and the United States against the Baghdad government.

Now his son, Mas'ud Barzani, is doing the same thing. He is an ally of Khomeyni's. Even though he does not represent a major danger, and the number of his supporters is limited, he is a rebel who has allied with our enemy. We have the right to treat him as a traitor and collaborator.

SPIEGEL: If his influence on the Kurds is so negligible, why have tens of thousands of people fled to Turkey?

'Aziz: Each of his fighters, fleeing from Iraq, took their families and clans along. Also, they forced the villagers with whom they stayed, to join them. Barzani staged a mass flight of civilians, so as to deceive the international public.

SPIEGEL: But why are you evacuating the Kurds who stay at home from their settlement area in the north deeply into the interior of the country?

'Aziz: That is a tribute to progress. The Kurds had neither electricity nor roads in their villages, neither hospitals nor schools, and so forth. We gradually developed plans for the development of these regions. That entails a certain demographic change. As you know, we also did something very similar with the Bedouin tribes who were formerly scattered all over Iraq.

SPIEGEL: You surely are not concerned about social developments, but about smashing the Kurdish settlement areas.

'Aziz: Yes, the insurgents are using the villages as a hideout to fight against Iraq. Just imagine this situation: Armed terrorists are coming to a village and demand food, clothes, and other help. No country can tolerate such a situation. Therefore, we decided to change the demographic situation there. We evacuated the villagers to save them from the terrorists and insurgents. We have the duty as a state to protect them from force. Now they will be getting modern settlements where they can start a new, better life.

SPIEGEL: The allegedly so solicitous government in Baghdad has used chemical weapons against the Kurds.

'Aziz: That is a lie.

SPIEGEL: The United States claims it has evidence that poison gas has been used. The refugees in Turkey also reported such attacks.

'Aziz: Among the refugees are fighters and leaders of the insurgency in Iraq. Of course, they will not tell foreign visitors that they were insurgents and allied with Iran. Rather, they pretend that they are persecuted and oppressed people. However, so far nobody has produced any evidence. Not even a bird killed by chemical weapons has been shown.

SPIEGEL: During a visit to Bonn, you said publicly that Iraq possesses chemical weapons which it has used against Iran.

'Aziz: That is something entirely different. The Kurdish insurgency never threatened our existence as a state. The Iranians, however, attacked with human waves—sometimes there were up to 400,000 people. These backward barbarians went to war with the intention to kill or be killed. We made use of our right of self-defense, and we defended ourselves against these barbarian waves, sometimes with the use of poison gas.

SPIEGEL: If you really did not use chemical weapons against the Kurds, why did you refuse to allow a UN delegation to visit the Kurdish area?

'Aziz: We refused to do so, because we consider this request a gross interference in our internal affairs, and not because we were afraid that somebody would find some evidence.

SPIEGEL: Who has helped Iraq produce its chemical weapons?

'Aziz: If Iraq or Iran or any other Third World state is suddenly in a position to produce chemical weapons, it is clear that the raw materials and facilities were obtained from industrial countries. Europe is the main source in this respect. For Europe to be outraged and shed crocodile tears, is pure hypocrisy. The Europeans sell all kinds of weapons, and when the buyers use these weapons, they pretend they are outraged.

SPIEGEL: The German Federal Government also condemned the use of chemical weapons. Thereupon Baghdad accused Bonn of taking Iran's side. Are you keeping to this reproach?

'Aziz: During my visit to Bonn in June, I told Mr Genscher that we were under the impression that German diplomacy clearly prefers Iran. It seems to me that this preference has been caused by the FRG's considerable economic interests. That is not only being done by Germany; many western countries pursue this line. They even hope that Iraq understands this, and sometimes they try to apologize, telling us that this is just an attempt to bring Iran back into the international community. However, in reality this is an opportunistic policy.

SPIEGEL: Many Western governments are under the impression that Iran has been more pragmatic and reasonable than Iraq, since both countries accepted the cease-fire resolution. Why are you blocking the peace negotiations with unacceptable demands?

'Aziz: We are not blocking the talks, we are only opposed to negotiating too hastily. The Iranians accepted the cease-fire after they were totally ruined militarily, politically, and morally. A political leadership which is in a desolate state is not in a position to immediately arrive at lasting peace, because peace entails obligations.

Therefore, we are in no hurry about the negotiations. Every passing day makes it clear to the Iranians what advantages peace entails for them, and how hopeless a return to war is. Once the Iranian leadership has realized this, it will draw the logical conclusion and be prepared for a lasting peace.

SPIEGEL: Do you not have to be concerned about fighting breaking out again, if the peace talks do not get on?

'Aziz: If the Iranian leadership believes that it could use the cease-fire to rally its forces and start war again, it is wrong. It is not true that the Iranians' military breakdown is only attributable to the lack of supplies and weapons. Their entire war machinery has broken down, their moral and ideological force is gone. The Iranian leadership would be well advised to realize this truth. If it were to start war again, its losses would be even more devastating than they were previously.

SPIEGEL: Iraq feels like a victor militarily. Could you not lose peace precisely by insisting on your intransigent attitude?

'Aziz: So far, there is nothing but a cease-fire. UN observers monitor its observance on the ground and in the air. The situation is more difficult at sea. There are no UN observers in the Gulf and in the Straits of Hormuz. We demanded that Iraqi ships in the Gulf or in the Straits of Hormuz can no longer be stopped and searched by the Iranian Navy. Also, we suggested that the Shatt al-'Arab be cleared of mines and shipwrecks. In our view, this action should be part of the cease-fire agreement.

SPIEGEL: Meanwhile Tehran has basically agreed to both conditions, even though the UN cease-fire resolution does not say anything about clearance works in the Shatt-al-'rab.

'Aziz: It is unfair that Iran can now use its ports unhindered, whereas Iraq cannot. Therefore, we must have an opportunity to make the port of Basra, our only access to the Gulf, navigable again as soon as possible. Iran blocked this demand for a long time to gain time. If the Iranian leadership had wanted to show good will, it had agreed immediately.

SPIEGEL: The quarrel about who has the territorial rights of the Shatt-al-Arab is behind this. According to the 1975 Treaty of Algiers, the border is about in the middle of the shipping lane. However, you demand that the border be shifted to the eastern bank.

'Aziz: The Algiers Treaty is dead. When Iranian troops were deployed in the Al-Faw Peninsula, in Subaydat, and in Halabjah, Tehran did not recognize the 1975 Treaty. The Iranians intended to occupy all of Iraq. Now that they have been militarily defeated they are taking it out of the closet again. A country that has not recognized and has ignored a border treaty for years, has no right now to quote this treaty.

SPIEGEL: In reality, President Saddam Husayn annulled the treaty on 17 September 1980, several days prior to the outbreak of the Gulf war.

'Aziz: At that time, Tehran had already killed the treaty. We only buried it officially.

SPIEGEL: The Iranian foreign minister denies that Iraq has a historically founded claim on the Shatt al-'Arab. In fact, Persians and Arabs had fought for the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates for centuries.

'Aziz: The Iranian mind suffers from schizophrenia. If we read history correctly, for a long time Persia was part of Babylonia or of Assyria or of the Abbasid Empire. These periods were longer than those during which Iraq was part of Persia. It is strange to us that a foreign minister of an Islamic Republic uses such language. On the one hand, he considers himself a good Muslim, then he suddenly changes his colors and talks like a chauvinist Persian. The Iranians are expansionists to the core.

One of the reasons why the shah fell in 1979 was his imperial mania. Now the Iranians no longer wear the crown of the shah but hide under an Islamic cap. But the disease is the same. The Germans under Hitler also suffered from the disease of expansionism. Only when they lost the war did they became normal, peaceful human beings again who were able to live with their neighbors. Iran is still in the acute stage of this disease. We hope that it will soon get well.

SPIEGEL: Iraq has threatened to redirect the Shatt al-'Arab if necessary and to shift the city of Basra with its harbor. Is this not a megalomaniac project?

'Aziz: This is meant very seriously. We are studying the construction of a canal to redirect the Shatt al-'Arab. We could thus shift the mouth of the river from the border to Iraqi territory.

SPIEGEL: Are you technically and financially able to realize such a large project?

'Aziz: Financing would not be a problem, and the task can also be easily solved from the technical point of view. The canal would have to begin south of Basra and

run into the sea 50 to 60 km further down the coast of Chur al-Subeir [spelling as published]. We have much experience in building canals—we have linked the Tigris and the Euphrates with canals in many places. Also, we plan to relocate parts of Basra to bring it out of the range of Iranian guns. We want to rebuild all heavy industrial plants and the petrochemical plants, deep in Iraq so that they are safe from the Iranians.

SPIEGEL: If you really were to do this, the old bed of the Shatt al-'Arab would dry up. Therefore, Iran would probably not accept your plans to redirect the river without resistance.

'Aziz: We do not fear Iran. Iran is no longer able to attack us. We will further expand our military superiority—this is the final decision.

RCC Voices Support for Palestinian State

JN1511063488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] An RCC spokesman has stated the following:

In harmony with Iraq's firm support for the PLO in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, and for the PLO's options aimed at achieving the Palestinian Arab people's objectives, Iraq supports the resolution adopted by the PNC during its Algiers session regarding the declaration of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, with Jerusalem as its capital. We wish the PLO and the Palestinian Arab people success and progress.

The spokesman stressed that Iraq will do its utmost to support the PNC resolution at international forums, and through its bilateral and Arab relations.

French Studying Request for Mirage 2000 Aircraft

44040077 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Oct 88 p 45

The French Government is studying an Iraqi request for the purchase of advanced weapons worth approximately 15 billion French francs. The deal includes the Mirage 2000, an aircraft which is more advanced than any system of its type presently operating in the Iraqi Air Force. AL-HAWADITH has learned that Paris is leaning towards supplying Iraq with the requested weapons provided an agreement over an acceptible mode of financing is reached.

Ma'ruf Returns From Trip to France, Sweden

JN1211174288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, returned to Baghdad this evening after visits to France and Sweden lasting several days.

In a statement following his return, the vice president said that the French and Swedish sides expressed their understanding of Iraq's position and views on the direct Iraqi-Iranian negotiations as well as their support for peace efforts and their eagerness to see an end to the stalemate in the Geneva negotiations. He added: The two countries' leaders asked me to convey their warm greetings to President leader Saddam Husayn and stressed their eagerness to promote and strengthen relations with Iraq in all areas.

Ba'th Party's Hasan 'Ali Returns From YAR

JN1311162888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1532 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—The Ba'th Party delegation led by Hasan 'Ali, Ba'th Party Regional Command member, returned to Baghdad today after a 3-day visit to the YAR. During the visit, the delegation participated in the meetings of the fourth conference of the General People's Congress.

Iran Urged To Abandon 'Twisted Sterile Styles'

JN1211110488 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 12, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today confirmed that Iraq's permissiveness and cooperation in the negotiations with Iran would not reach the extent of concession concerning any of its rights.

In its editorial for today the paper said that Iraq would not surrender its legitimate rights or relinquish its right attitude under threats unleashed by the Iranian officials whether they were public or (implied) and refuses and ridicules these threats while at the same time refuses any form of pressure.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also said that Iran's dependence on the style of excitement by statements and playing with terms and floating the questions submitted at the negotiating table is an exposed sterile style it should give up. The paper stressed that Iraq has known and experienced Iran's manoeuvers before and during the war and before and during negotiations, which makes it aware and cautious of each game or manoeuver.

At the conclusion of its editorial the paper advised Iran to relinquish its twisted sterile styles if it were actually desirous of accelerating the negotiations and realizing peace.

PNC Proclamation 'Smokescreen' for Terror

TA1511101988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Israel's reaction to the Palestinian proclamation of independence: The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says that the organization that claims to represent the Palestinians has again proven that it cannot or may not want to recognize reality. In its declarations it uses ambiguous language to try to pull a smokescreen over the justification of violence, terror, and radicalism. Any recognition and legitimization of the Algiers declarations will not help peace in the Middle East, the announcement says. No unilateral move can replace a settlement reached through negotiations. No special effect can mask the tragedy of the Palestinian people.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in conclusion, the announcement states that Israel continues to pursue its commitment toward a just and viable peace with all its neighbors, especially Jordan and the Palestinians. Israel continues to view UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 as the sole basis for the achievement of this goal.

Arabs, Tehiya, NRP, CRM on Proclamation

TA1511114688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The leaders of the Arab sector in Israel this morning called on the government to grasp the hand of the Palestinians which is extended in peace. The members of the Followup Committee of Arab Local Councils view the PLO leader's declaration as a historic move toward peace and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Progressive List for Peace Knesset Member [MK] Muhammad Mi'ari also believes that the proclamation of independence offers the hope the Palestinians were awaiting.

MK Avner Sciaki of the National Religious Party believes that the obvious answer to the Palestinian declaration should lie in increased settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The Tehiya Movement says the proclamation is intended to liquidate the State of Israel by creating a base for the Palestinians in every part of Eretz Yisra'el that they will be able to tear from our land.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 15 November adds: "MK Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement says that after Algiers the hope is that it will not be long before the PLO fully recognizes Israel. Endorsement of the idea of partition of land, implicit recognition of Israel, and readiness to negotiate show that the PLO has in fact changed and no longer supports its charter."]

Peres Notes 'Catch' in PNC Acceptance of 242

TA1511122788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Elihu Ben-on at Sede Boqer Memorial for David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister; on 15 November—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] In my opinion, the Palestinian declaration is another attempt to avoid the need to adopt clear-cut resolutions. They have adopted Resolution No 242, but with quite a catch—namely, the political rights and the right to self-determination. The right to self-determination is, in fact, another name for a Palestinian state. Even the Palestinians should realize that there is no chance that any demand of theirs will be accepted before negotiations.

I am not saying that this will be accepted after negotiations. The problem facing us at the moment is not how to resolve the conflict between us and the Palestinians, but how to launch negotiations, because the problem will not be solved without or prior to negotiations.

[Ben-on] Mr Peres, today we may witness celebrations of independence in the territories where the Arab residents live. How will you view these festivities?

[Peres] Festivities are just festivities; they do not solve the problem. In general, problems cannot be killed off, nor can they be celebrated. Problems need to be solved.

Sharon: Proclamation 'Dangerous Development'

TA1511123388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon also attended the memorial service for David Ben-Gurion in Sede Boqer. Here is his reaction to 'Arafat's proclamation of an independent Palestinian state.

[Begin Sharon recording] This is a very dangerous development which will not fail to make an imprint; I have been warning about it for many months.

The security situation will definitely worsen. Also, there are political dangers; some countries may recognize this so-called state. There is no doubt whatsoever that in the wake of such recognition, economic pressures may be brought to bear on Israel. We have experienced similar pressure from the EEC when a far less serious issue—the marketing of agricultural produce from the territories directly to Europe—was at stake.

Of course, the greatest danger is that this might lead—albeit gradually and in phases—to the establishment of a second Palestinian state, in addition to that already existing in Trans-Jordan. It is a shame that the government did not hold discussions on the issue. For many months I demanded such a debate, but the government did not adopt the steps it should have.

This proclamation of theirs will have dynamics of its own. If it leads to any developments—and it already has—Israel should proceed to apply Israeli law to some areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Such a move would make it clear that in any agreement whatsoever, Israel's forces would remain deployed throughout the entire area and would thwart any chances of establishing a second Palestinian state in the future. Even now I believe this is the only solution. Action should have been taken ahead of time, but we must still take steps immediately. [end recording]

Abu Rahmah: Proclamation 'Fulfillment' of Dream
TA1511052588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] In the territories, a first reaction [to the PNC's proclamation of an independent Palestinian state] from Fayiz Abu Rahmah of Gaza, who told Arye Gus:

[Begin Abu Rahmah recording] The announcement is a fulfillment of a dream, a moderate dream, and is doing a very good reaction to all those who believe in coexistence and moderation. [end recording]

Sinyurah: Proclamation 'Step Toward Peace'
TA1511113088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Palestinian activist Hanna Sinyurah has welcomed the declaration of independence, saying it is everything he had hoped for and expected. Sinyurah said the document is a step toward peace between the Palestinians and Israel. Reporter Shlomo Berger asked Sinyurah why Israel was not specifically mentioned in the declaration.

[Begin recording] [Sinyurah] Well, Israel is mentioned in the political statement where we talk not only about partition, but at the same time accepting Security Council Resolution 242 and 338. The political statement talks about negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[Berger] But Israel is not specifically mentioned.

[Sinyurah] Israel is actually called part of the region. The Palestinians want to make peace not with a shadow; they want to make peace with the people of Israel.

[Berger] Does the declaration recognize Israel?

[Sinyurah] Certainly. It is a recognition of the existence of the State of Israel; it is a triumph for the voice of moderation within the Palestinian camp; it is reality; it understands the existence of the State of Israel, and it wants to make peace with that state.

[Berger] The declaration is based on UN Resolution 181 for the 1947 borders. Now, no Israeli Government would accept that.

[Sinyurah] There was no mention of the 1947 borders. There was mention of Resolution 181 and the partition plan of 1947 to give legitimacy to the two-state solution. It is actually both the birth certificate of the Israeli state, as well as the birth certificate of the Palestinian state. There is specific mention of Security Council Resolution 242 which talks about borders between the two nations. [end recording]

Shamir To Include Labor in Forming Government
TA1411124588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, "after the ceremony at the president's residence" in which Shamir was assigned the task of forming a government—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Congratulations on the nomination, Mr Prime Minister. In your statement, you said that you will propose to all the parties to join your government. Does this include the Labor Party—the Alignment—as well?

[Shamir] Absolutely. First of all, thank you for your congratulations. I will appeal to all the parties to join my government and that includes the Labor Party.

[Ben-'Ami] What will be the conditions? You said: based on terms we will agree upon. What conditions?

[Shamir] We will discuss those when we meet.

[Ben-'Ami] Will this government be able to deal with the issues of peace which you mentioned in your statement, when you have so many commitments to the other partners?

[Shamir] I believe the government will adhere to the guidelines it will set down. These will include a clause detailing the goals toward advancing peace and the conditions toward which we will aspire.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, how can you reassure world and U.S. Jewry on everything related to religious legislation?

[Shamir] I have indeed given it thought. First of all, I want us all to work together, to reach solutions acceptable to all and find a way to maintain a dialogue. Over the past 2 years, I have tried to find ways to achieve a compromise, and I set up a ministerial committee to that end. So far this attempt has not proved successful, but I have not given up. I believe we will be able to continue the effort. There are experts who believe we can attain the goal. The dimensions of the problem have been somewhat exaggerated. We will, however, do everything possible to reach mutual understanding—I should say a better mutual understanding—and a dialogue.

[Ben-'Ami] The last question, Mr Shamir: You do not have a great deal of time at your disposal, and you have a great deal of work ahead of you. There are problems within the Likud. When will you begin the negotiations? Do you know yet how you will solve the problems within the Likud?

[Shamir] I hope very much that we will solve all the problems to the satisfaction of all. There are problems of peace within the nation, problems of peace with our neighbors. It seems to me that the problem of peace within the Likud Movement is the simplest of all.

[Ben-'Ami] Will the negotiations start today?

[Shamir] It is not a matter of today or tomorrow. We will solve these problems.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you and good luck.

Shamir on Government Formation, Electoral Reform

TA1411165588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Goni Savir and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Shilon] Do you at all foresee the possibility of Shim'on Peres being foreign minister in a government led by you?

[Shamir] I will invite the Labor Party to a meeting. Before talking to Labor Party representatives, I do not want to go into the details of a government in which we and Labor Party representatives might participate. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] The ultraorthodox parties are not a single block, and there are contradictions—at least from your point of view—between their demands for portfolios. How do you plan to overcome this problem?

[Shamir] There will be negotiations over this matter, in which we will try to overcome the contradictions and coordinate the positions of the various partners to the government.

[Shilon] Do you foresee a possibility of the Treasury portfolio going to an ultraorthodox party?

[Shamir] I cannot imagine that the Treasury portfolio will be held by anyone but a Likud representative.

[Savir] Do you see yourself meeting the deadline the ultraorthodox parties set on the Who Is a Jew issue: 6 weeks after a coalition is formed?

[Shamir] I believe I will be able to meet it, otherwise I would not have made such a promise.

[Shilon] There is another deadline: the 21-day deadline the president gave you to form a government. Your close friends say that the effort will be enormous. Do you see yourself as someone who can say: I am pleased to announce the completion of the task? Or is the task really difficult and intense?

[Shamir] We always say, do not blow your own horn. I am now only starting the job. I hope to complete it within the 21-day period, and if I do not succeed in completing it within that time, I have the possibility of asking the president for more time. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] In recent days there has been talk about the possibility of a broad-based government which will stay in office until the electoral system is changed, to enable either you or your opponent to attain a massive majority so that you can carry out your desired policy. Will you support a change in the electoral system?

[Shamir] No, I do not accept any plan for setting up a government for a short period just to deal only with changing our laws and later holding additional elections. I do not think it is healthy for the country to hold frequent elections.

[Shilon, interrupting] And for a longer period?

[Shamir] Regarding changes in the law, the truth is that I have not considered the details of the various proposals, nor the nation's need for these changes. I, of course, believe that there is a need for some sort of change. I will check the various suggestions and try to get the agreement of the coalition partners to any change I consider necessary.

[Shilon] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, thank you.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Shamir Invites Peres to 15 Nov Coalition Talks

TA1411175188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] During the past few minutes there has been a development in the coalition talks. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has invited Shim'on Peres to a meeting tomorrow night in his office to start the coalition contacts. That is, the prime minister is abiding by the undertaking he gave today when he responded to the president's announcement that he was entrusting to Mr Shamir the task of forming a new government.

Mr Shamir replied that he would turn to all the parties prepared to participate in a government led by him—and under conditions to be agreed upon—to join the coalition.

Mr Shamir is abiding by this commitment, and is inviting Mr Peres to start negotiations on the Alignment possibly joining the government, under conditions to be agreed upon—or perhaps which will not be agreed upon—between the two. [passage omitted]

Shamir Notes Peace Plan; Wants To Meet Mubarak

TA1511093488 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Report on an interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Smadar Peri on 14 November; place not given]

[Text] Immediately after completing the establishment of the new government, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir intends to send a message to the Egyptian president proposing that they hold a meeting aimed at resuming negotiations on a peace settlement in the region.

Shamir intends to propose an alternative to the international conference to President Mubarak: a meeting of all the parties to the negotiations, including a Palestinian delegation, with the leaders of the two superpowers "in order to get international legitimization."

In a talk with me yesterday, the prime minister outlined the principles of the peace plan he will present to the Egyptian president:

—Negotiations without preconditions on a solution to the Palestinian problem. The negotiations would be based on the text of the Camp David accords "or something similar."

—Egypt, Jordan, and a Palestinian delegation would be invited to take part in negotiations, which would be conducted in two stages:

a. a meeting between the delegations which would not deal with matters of sovereignty.

b. direct negotiations on a final settlement aimed at finding a solution acceptable to all the sides.

The prime minister emphasized that Egypt must participate in the negotiations, "despite the fact that we have no problems with it." With regard to the Palestinian delegation, Shamir stated that "Palestinian representatives must be included because, after all, it is the determination of their fate that is at stake," but these must not be representatives of the PLO. Shamir stressed that Israel would never sit at the negotiating table with the PLO.

As said, as part of his peace plan, the prime minister is offering an alternative to the international conference: To get international legitimization, as King Husayn demands, Shamir proposes that all the parties to the negotiations should be invited to a summit meeting sponsored by the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Shamir said that until now, the Arabs could demand an international conference "because they had Shim'on Peres, but now they have me."

The prime minister said that the peace negotiations would evolve gradually: The meeting of the leaders sponsored by the superpowers would be followed by a meeting of the delegations for preliminary talks and negotiations on the final settlement.

I have also learned that the main points of Shamir's plan have already been relayed to Jordan.

How does the prime minister plan to break the ice between himself and the Egyptian president?

Shamir's answer: "I have sent a number of letters to President Mubarak proposing that we hold a meeting, but so far I have only received rejections. Up to now the Egyptians have been conducting a dialogue with one part of the government only. Now they have me. They must talk to me, and I hope that this time their reaction will be different."

Radio Weighs Klibi Comments on Bush Victory

JN1011171888 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1437 GMT 10 Nov 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: In view of the standing of the United States and its distinguished political weight in the international arena as one of the two superpowers, it was natural to see George Bush's victory in the U.S. presidential elections produce worldwide reactions emanating from the capitals of the Western and Eastern blocs in addition to the capitals of the so-called Third World.

One of the manifestations of the official reactions produced by various capitals and governments was represented by voicing a desire or a hope that the U.S. President-elect would realize during his presidential term the self-centered wishes of this capital or that government to serve its own interests.

The common denominator of the reactions produced by various Arab capitals was manifested by the statement made yesterday by Arab League Secretary General Ched'i Klibi in which he called on U.S. President-elect George Bush to give greater and bigger attention to the Middle East conflict and to the issue of activating the international efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East.

We cannot forget here that such an Arab call is actually suggestive of a lack of self-reliance and of dependence on others; this is similar to the persistent clinging to the idea of convening an international Middle East peace conference.

While saying this, we do not seek to belittle even a hairbreadth of the importance of the good offices which can be rendered by the U.S. Administration to contribute toward the advancement of the peace process in the Middle East.

However, it cannot be overlooked that the lack of self-reliance which most often characterizes the official Arab stands has continued to be one of the tragic reasons behind the failure to achieve a comprehensive peace in our region. The question posed is the following: How can such a lack of self-reliance fall in harmony with the independence and independent decisionmaking of the states that are directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Certainly, if these states were serious and sincere in their efforts to achieve peace and if they consider themselves to be independent states that seek to preserve their independent decisionmaking, then, their rulers' behavior must be dictated by a belief that peace does not need permission from anybone to help give it shape. Their behavior must also be dictated by a belief that the desired peace should be a peace among the peoples of our region and that the golden key to that peace lies in their hands and minds. They must know that this key will not be found in Washington, Moscow, London, Paris, or Beijing.

AL-SHA'B Views Bush Presidency

TA1011164388 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Nov 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Bush Enters the White House"]

[Text] Finally the period of anticipation and expectation that prevailed in the Arab world has ended. It focused on whether Bush or Dukakis would win the U.S. presidency. Bush's entrance into the White House has put an end to the anticipation and has introduced a period of speculation about what the new U.S. President will do regarding world problems in general and the Middle East problem in particular.

Consecutive U.S. Administrations have not demonstrated real eagerness to resolve the Middle East crisis nor have held out any hope for or drawn up any pragmatic formula toward its settlement; rather it has become obvious from a careful reading of the U.S. political map in the region, which has guided all U.S. envoys who have visited the area, that the step-by-step policy has become the method and official policy that consecutive U.S. administrations have persistently pursued. This policy has contributed and is contributing to intensifying the suffering of the region's nations and to widening the gap between them and the peace to which they aspire.

Just as the Israeli elections were not a Palestinian wager due to the similarity between the two sides of the coin in Israel, the U.S. elections were not a Palestinian wager either. Bush and Dukakis are not only of the same mind in rejecting recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, but have publicly pledged during the election campaign to continue supporting Israel and providing it with political and military cover whenever this is necessary.

The United States, while continuing to support Israel despite its policies' contravention of international laws and regulations, is trying to consolidate Israel's military role to strengthen Israeli permanency on the regional level so that Israel will continue to fulfill the role of the blind policeman in the region. This was expressed by U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci during his recent visit to Israel.

Greeting any U.S. President will depend on the extent of that President's contribution to advancing the peace process in the region by exerting effective pressure on Israel's leaders to force them to abandon their terrible intransigence, which has squandered many peace opportunities and which is dragging the entire world to the brink of the abyss, and to force them to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as well as their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. Only then could we welcome the new U.S. President.

Daily Urges Cooperation With U.S. Administration

TA1011165688 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Nov 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Look After the Friend in the White House"]

[Text] George Bush's election as president reflects the wish of most U.S. citizens to preserve the spirit of the Reagan administration, one of stability, patriotism, and political might. Bush is the clear product of the administration that gave back the Stars and Stripes the colors and international status of a superpower.

One of the most important achievements of the outgoing administration was to cultivate America's allies, including Israel. Therefore, even if emotionally many of us tended to side with Dukakis, political wisdom said Bush. The president-elect is very well acquainted with the problems of the region, and being aware of the failure of the Shultz initiative, he knows that there are no easy solutions to the Middle East conflict.

The nature of our relationship with the United States will mostly be determined by Washington, but events in Israel will also have quite an impact. Seeing that the Likud and the right wing may form the next government, it is very important that this government should not try to embarrass the new administration with one-sided initiatives in Judaea and Samaria that contravene the political lines Shamir committed himself to during the election campaign.

For the sake of the special relationship with the United States it is important that the next Israeli Government should not make do with talking about political initiatives, but should also try to carry them out in coordination and cooperation with the next president and administration. George Bush is a friend, and we must make sure that he remains one.

Moscow Orders Rotation of HADASH MK's

TA1511102688 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 15 Nov 88 p 3

["Exclusive" DEPTH News Service report by Diane Shalem]

[Text] Jerusalem—Moscow has ordered the four veteran HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Communist Knesset members to vacate their parliamentary seats in the coming years in favor of younger party members.

Me'ir Wilner, Tawfiq Tubi, Charlie Biton, and Tawfiq Zayyad will be replaced by Mayor Hashim Mahamid of Umm al-Fahm; Muhammad Nahfa, the first Israeli communist Druze member from Beit Jann; Tamar Gozansky, a member of the party executive from Tel Aviv, and Salim Jubran from Nazareth.

One of the four new members may have to vacate his seat rotate [as published] in mid-term to enable Binyamin Gonen to sit in the Knesset.

Sources close to HADASH said the reason for the second round of musical Knesset seats is the disappointed Soviet expectation that HADASH would win another two seats in the elections.

Further on Incidents, Unrest in Territories

W. Bank Closed; Curfews Imposed

TA1511053388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Relative quiet prevailed in the territories last night, and a reinforced presence of the security forces was noticeable. Judaea and Samaria were closed down as of this morning by order of the commander of the Central Command. All nonresidents were ordered to leave. The order is valid until midnight tonight. Reporters and photographers may enter only under escort by representatives of the IDF spokesman. A curfew was clamped on all refugee camps and most large towns in Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew in the Gaza Strip is continuing. Preparations have also been made in Jerusalem to prevent disturbances.

1 Dead as Gazans Celebrate

TA1511063588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe from the Erez roadblock at the entrance to the Gaza Strip—live]

[Text] There is an unprecedented deployment of forces in the Gaza Strip, and the 650,000 regional residents are under a total curfew. Security measures have been stepped up here, at the Erez roadblock, too. Local residents trying to enter the Gaza Strip are not seen here. The Gaza Strip is said to be quiet at the moment. Last night the residents began to celebrate the proclamation of independence during breaks in the curfew.

According to Arab sources, residents violated the curfew to fly balloons, hoist Palestinian flags, and fire fireworks. Calls of Allahu Akbar [God is great in Arabic] were heard from the houses. Most of the residents remained at home, alertly following the news on the radio.

In several places, especially in refugee camps in the central Gaza Strip, tires were set on fire and stones were thrown. Two local residents were reportedly wounded yesterday by IDF gunfire. A Khan Yunus resident threw a block and a bottle at IDF soldiers and was shot and killed. The family kidnapped the body from the hospital and buried it.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 15 November in a report by Joel Greenberg, Joshua Brilliant, and Andy Court on pages one and ten says that "troops policing the Gaza Strip yesterday reportedly shot to death one resident in Khan Yunus, wounded at least eight more, and beat up scores of others."]

The scope of forces present in the Gaza Strip is unprecedented. The IDF soldiers received clear instructions to prevent any rallies and celebrations. The defense establishment is attributing great importance to its ability to suppress attempts to stage demonstrations and views this as an important test of the future of the uprising.

Jewish Settlers Warned; IDF Gets Instructions

TA1111164588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, takes a grave view of the decision by the Jewish settlers in the territories to use arms in reaction to stoning, warning them that arms should be used for self-defense only. According to Maj Gen Mitzna', only a person whose life is endangered can and even should use his weapon, but use of arms for any purpose other than this will entail an appropriate IDF reaction. Maj Gen Mitzna' noted that the IDF has adopted all possible measures to prevent disturbances in the territories during the PNC session.

The IDF today handed out to soldiers instructions about conduct vis-a-vis the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, Judaea, and Samaria to prevent incidents and harm to residents.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that a total ban has been imposed on entry into mosques and schools, and soldiers have also been prohibited from entering hospitals and UNRWA facilities. It is only with a special, high-level permit, that deviation from these instructions will be possible.

Al-Huss Cited on State of 'Partial Separation'

PM1011100488 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Nov 88 p 11

[Interview with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss by Muwaffaq Madani in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Madani] Has Lebanon been partitioned? Do you now feel that it is too late to elect a new president?

[Al-Huss] There is a state of partial separation resulting from the events and developments of 14 years of war, but it is not partition. We believe that the present state of affairs can be terminated. In fact, it is everyone's duty to endeavor to rectify it through a compromise formula that would lay sound foundations for developing the system in such a way as to fulfill the aspirations of our new generations and, hopefully, ensure the return of all the evacuees to their own homes.

That is why we do not view the current state of separation as partition. This situation can be ended, and indeed the country must be extricated from it. However, we fear that this situation resulting from the failure to elect a president might increase the rift between the two different realities and create an opening for those with partitionist designs to carry out their plots.

We have again begun to hear the call for the establishment of a confederal system in Lebanon. That call had not been heard for years. So we do not hide our fear and extreme concern about the future and what it might bring in the way of plans to undermine Lebanon's unity and fate. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Is it not true that the military government has been able to offer the public services which your own government was unable to offer in the past?

[Al-Huss] The formation of the so-called military government took us by surprise. It was formed in defiance of the national charter and constitutional tradition. That is why it is illegitimate.

[Madani] Even though it is based on the Constitution which the president consulted when he formed that government?

[Al-Huss] Yes. The military government is illegitimate. As regards public services, I am surprised to hear that the so-called military government has managed to do what we could not do before. The services come from the various organs, institutions, and infrastructures. All the services the public receives at present are the result of work by previous governments. There has been nothing new since 23 September. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Efforts are being made to form a unified government combining your government and that of General 'Awn in the eastern sector. What obstacles stand in the way of such a step?

[Al-Huss] I wish unity of procedural authority could be restored in the country either through presidential elections or through a government that would unify that authority, but it is premature to discuss details.

Al-Khatib Appointment Prompts Official Reaction

Al-Huss 'Dissatisfied'

NC1011150288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Sources close to Dr Salim al-Huss have cited him as saying that he was dissatisfied with the appointment of an Army commander because it had been agreed to appoint a chief of staff only.

The same sources said that as a sign of protest, Al-Huss refused to be photographed with Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, who visited him at his residence yesterday.

Observers in Beirut note that the Syrian military delegation which visited West Beirut leaders recently did not visit Al-Huss and Mufti Khalid. This is an indication that the Syrians are annoyed by the stands of the former prime minister, according to the observers.

Forces Official on Appointment

NC1011175188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Dr Tawifiq al-Hindi, political adviser to the Lebanese Forces commander, has voiced the view that the decision to appoint Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib Army commander constitutes a qualitative change in the Lebanese situation and ushers in a new stage, transforming the situation from negative coexistence among the Lebanese to a phase of an imposed political escalation. He considered this escalation an expression of the Syrian desire to fulfill its plan in Lebanon, and thus Damascus has practically accomplished one of the articles of the tripartite agreement by linking part of the Lebanese Army to the Syrian Army.

Al-Hindi said that, through this measure, Syria seeks to Lebanonize the conflict and asserted that the Syrian decision is an illegitimate one taken by an illegitimate grouping, that brushes aside all the efforts aimed at rescuing Lebanon and ensuring the holding of presidential elections.

He also emphasized that Syria is an element of unrest and instability in Lebanon and noted that there will be no solution in Lebanon until all Syrian and other foreign forces and armies are withdrawn.

Birri Notes 'Importance'

NC1011151688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] A military meeting has been held at the office of Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri. In addition to Birri himself, the Army brigade commanders for Beirut, Al-Biqa', and the South were present at the meeting.

Those attending were 1st Brigade Commander Brigadier General Ibrahim Shahin, Southern District Commander Brigadier General Muhammad Sa'd, 3d Brigade Commander Brigadier General 'Abd al-Halim Kanj and his chief of staff Major 'Isam 'Atwah, Army Administration Director Colonel Lutfi Jabir, and a number of senior officers.

Birri explained the importance of the appointment of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib as acting Army commander.

Amal sources said that all those present expressed full readiness to cooperate in the reorganization of the brigades. Birri had earlier met with Colonel Nabih Farhat, with whom he discussed the appointment of Brig Gen al-Khatib.

Army Officers Object

NC1111080888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] According to a press source, high-ranking Army officers, both Sunnite and Shi'ite, have objected to the decision appointing Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, retired, as acting Army commander. Most prominent of these officers is Shi'ite Brig Gen Ibrahim Shahin, commander of the 1st Brigade in Al-Biqa, who said that his brigade is well-organized and disciplined.

He said that the only thing he has against Brig al-Khatib is that he is a former officer who retired several years ago. He added that because Al-Khatib has been away from the military establishment, he is out of touch with its problems, how to confront them, and how to reunite its ranks.

Sunni Brig Gen Muhammad al-Hajj, commander of the military area in Beirut, has also objected to Al-Khatib's appointment, which in his view, transcended the powers of the area commander.

For its part, the 6th Brigade Command said that Al-Khatib's appointment is applicable only to the soldiers of this Shi'ite brigade in the western area, but not to the Druze 11th Brigade in Hammana, the Sunni 12th Brigade in Sidon, and the mixed 1st Brigade in Al-Biqa'.

Junblatt on Shuffling Portfolios, Budget

NC1211072188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has emphasized that the battle is just beginning, and we attach no importance to the Presidency.

In an interview with the AL-DUWALIYAH News Agency today, Junblatt called the appointment of Al-Khatib a necessary step, noting that a political decision has a bigger effect than the law. He added: We are currently working on a comprehensive plan regarding the budget and the national administration, which will be made public soon.

Junblatt began his interview with the issue of the budget. He said: We are currently studying the proposed draft budget submitted to us, in which enormous funds are earmarked for meaning'ess things. For instance, 30 billion Lebanese pounds are allocated for the Lebanese Army, 19 billion pounds for the Foreign Ministry, and 500 million pounds for the NNA, which is an ancillary of the Deuxieme Bureau. What are these sums used for? For the (?luxury) of the Army?

As for the Foreign Ministry, he added, at the time of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami we called for trimming its expenses, which are spent on ambassadors who mostly oppose the nationalist line. In addition, there are some state institutions that need to be closed down, such as the Council of Development and Reconstruction, the Council for Greater Projects, the Council for Beirut Projects, and the State Security Directorate, which my friend Nabih Birri has agreed to dissolve. What is the use of all these institutions?

Junblatt added: In examining the draft budget, we consider the items on which the funds are spent and whether these items are essential or not, taking into account the negligence toward our areas since 1920, the percentage of allocations, and the funds needed for development.

I believe that the percentage should be 80 percent for our areas and 20 percent for their areas, which do not need as much money as our areas, thanks to the amounts spent on them over the years. There are other ambiguous clauses in this draft budget. Above all, he added, we must pay attention to some other serious financial issues.

The Al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry] command has requested a credit in the amount of 400 million pounds to be spent on the maintenance of the helicopters in operation, as well as the Hawker Hunter aircraft at Halat airstrip. This money will be used against us and for other purposes. If this draft budget has been temporarily shelved, who could guarantee to us that it will not be passed later on? That is why the financial decisions must be firmly watched by the national government. The Bank

of Lebanon governor's actions must be monitored more closely as well, and a comptroller must be appointed by the government to watch over the expenditures.

Junblatt added: I call for reshuffling the portfolios in the Al-Huss government, of which I am a member, because the prime minister is assuming a great burden due to the number of portfolios he is entrusted with. Therefore, I myself am ready to take charge of the Ministry of Finance, and this will take the financial decisions out of the hands of Salim Al-Huss and Edmund Na'im [Bank of Lebanon governor].

At any rate, nothing prevents the current government from expanding to include national ministers who could share the responsibility and the tasks with us, particularly in the sensitive ministries such as the Ministry of Defense, which I am also ready to take over.

He added: The government must be upgraded to keep pressure off it and to avoid the whispers exchanged sometimes by foreign ambassadors, at other times by Bishop Khalil Abu Nadir, by this or that emissary, or the telephone whisperings between the governor of the Bank of Lebanon and some people there [not further specified]. Edmund Na'im is just an employee, and he has nothing to do with political decisions.

Junblatt stressed the need to make radical decisions of that kind, because if some people believe the crisis will not last for long, we say the battle has just begun. If they talk about presidential elections, we do not attach any importance to this post. We do not want a president of the Republic before true power sharing and parity are realized in Lebanon.

If they want to blackmail us by saying we are undermining independence or sovereignty, or by accusing us of being pro-Syrian, we say to them we are for the appointment of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib; we have supported him and will continue to do so with our own free will. Let them not compel us to call for unity with Syria. It is true that our line was originally unionist. But if the intent is for Lebanon to be divided into a Western, Israeli, and a Syrian part, we want all of Lebanon to be Arab and Syrian.

He went on to say that the 1943 covenant and independence came under the orders of General (Spear). Lebanon's independence has collapsed more than once. The first time in 1958, then in 1968 during the elections of the tripartite party [Al-Hizb al-Thulathi], and in 1975 when Ma'ruf Sa'd was assassinated. It was a crime similar to the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami. At the time of Karami's assassination, no one among those who now criticize us condemned the Army or those responsible for the assassination. Independence also collapsed at the time of the Israeli incursion.

Returning to the financial issue, Junblatt said: What is now needed, more than before, is to start collecting a unified national tax, which will flow into the national government's treasury and form part of its revenues. He added, this tax should be put in force through the national areas, from Tripoli, Al-Matn Al-Shamali, Al-Biqa', the mountain, Sidon, and down to the South. We need a lot of revenues and we need to stop spending money on the eastern areas, because they are robbing us. We have enormous and [word indistinct] battles ahead of us, and this is their diagram.

Junblatt added: When we talk like this some people ask us about our alternative plan. We are currently working on a comprehensive plan that includes a political, military, and economic program, which will be presented to Lebanese citizens. He added: They attack us because we want to establish a civil administration. We have made it clear that this civil administration, even in the mountain, is ready to be merged and dissolved within the national state and national government.

As for the claims against us that we want the militias to return, this is false. However, the appointment of Sami al-Khatib is the best guarantee against the return of the militias, by strengthening the Army and rebuilding it on patriotic bases under an Arab doctrine. Not only are we ready to be part of such an army, but also to merge with it officially, by enlisting, as happened in the eastern areas where Michel 'Awn and others enlisted several militiamen in the Army some time ago.

We are ready to do the same once Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib has completed restructuring the Army. The talk about the return of the militia is a feeble and illogical pretext. We all have had enough from the militia, and we have not benefitted from the militias in Beirut. The appointment of Al-Khatib, he pointed out, was a necessary step, but some now say it was made by a minister and not by the goverment, while some others are dissatisfied. The appointment is not a legal matter, but a political decision, and it has a bigger effect than the law.

A coup took place in East Beirut, and we are trying to face it with political decisions. If they want a coup, we are ready to stage one. We must not forget what happened and is still happening in East Beirut. There they tell us: No power sharing, and if you want power sharing we want a federation, and this is the philosophy of Al-Kaslik [clerical institution].

Whoever is unaware of this philosophy or its calls for a multi-culture is ignorant of the extremist Christian plan, which is still in force. When [words indistinct] like former President Franjiyah stood up, they called it (?sedition). The same happened to Elie Hubayqah, who was one of them and who they sacked in a massacre when he tried to [words indistinct].

Mufti Khalid Asks Syria To Delay Pullout

NC1111212788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] His eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the Mufti of the Republic, left Beirut for Jeddah tonight to participate in the conference of the Islamic World League to be held next week.

In a statement at Beirut airport, Mufti Khalid expressed his support for the reorganization of the Army's brigades in order to unite the Army, organize its ranks, and prepare it to defend the country and homeland. He hoped that the Syrian leadership will delay the withdrawal of its forces from West Beirut to ensure the good formation of the Army and good discipline of its members so that they may be able to restore security and man's freedom and dignity.

Mufti Khalid thanked Syria for its services toward strengthening Lebanon and creating understanding among its sons.

Israeli Planes Make Reconnaissance Flights

NC1411124988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying reconnaissance sorties in Lebanese skies at 1340 today. The planes drew antiaircraft fire.

Aircraft Fly Over Beirut

NC1411165988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the camps at 1350 today, and then again at 1700. An enemy aircraft formation flew over Beirut and broke the sound barrier at 1340.

Planes Stage Mock Raids

NC1511101988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out several sorties over Sidon and its camps this morning. They staged mock raids and drew antiaircract fire.

Afghanistan

Soviets To Provide More Advanced Weaponry

BK1411143288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, Nov 14 (AFP)—Afghanistan will soon receive more sophisticated weapons from the Soviet Union for deployment against mujahidin guerrillas, an official source said here Monday.

The new weaponry would be more modern than the SS-1 surface-to-surface Scud missiles Kabul inducted on November 1, the highly-place government source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The source refused to disclose the type of weapons or the quantity the Afghan Army would get, but said they would "be in adequate supply and deployed operationally very shortly."

Military strategists and Western diplomats speculated that the latest package of armaments could consist of advance model Scud missiles with a longer range and more flexibility.

The Scuds already here enable the Afghan Army to reach targets up to 180 kilometres away.

The proposed delivery was primarily aimed at daunting Pakistan, which has given sanctuary to a seven-party alliance of the fragmented mujahidin, the diplomats said.

"You will come to know when we get these weapons," said a source close to President Najibullah's inner circle, adding that the new weapons would give the Afghan Army an edge over the anti-government Moslem rebels.

He said the decision to secure the advanced weapons was taken last week during the visit of a high-powered Soviet delegation headed by Oleg Baklanov, a Soviet Central Committee secretary.

During his visit, Mr Baklanov promised to extend "every kind of military assistance" to the Afghanistan government. Observers said his meeting with Dr Najibullah Friday was aimed at broadening military and economic links beyond the scope of existing long-term agreements. [passage omitted]

Transport Protocol Signed With Soviet Union

LD1411145888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 13, BAKHTAR—Transportation a protocol in the framework of military and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and Soviet Union signed in the field of transportation today. [sentence as received]

Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy prime minister of Afghanistan and I. Khotsialov deputy to Afghan-Soviet commission cooperation and head of administrative department Council of the Ministers of the Soviet Union have signed the protocol.

BAKHTAR Assesses Baklanov Visit

LD1511093088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 14, BAKHTAR—The recent visit by high-ranking Soviet working delegation headed by Oleg Baklanov, a secretary of the Central Committee of CPSU, aimed at broadening socio-economic and military assistance in the interest of peace and stability in the Republic of Afghanistan and the region is of great significance for the Afghan people.

The visit took place at a time when the provisions of Geneva accords are contravened by Pakistan and the United States despite the efforts made by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in implementing them.

President Najibullah in his meeting with the delegation reiterated that the policy of national reconciliation is fully in conformance with the interests of the people of Afghanistan and its aim is to create a broad-based coalition for ending war and bloodshed in the country.

Assessing the situation in Afghanistan, the head of the Soviet delegation assured President Najibullah and the people of Afghanistan, on behalf of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the government and the Soviet people, for their support to the policy of national reconciliation, realisation of Geneva accords and other peaceful initiatives of the Republic for attaining peace in the country.

The Soviet delegation promised that the Soviet Union will not withhold any socio-economic, political and military assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan. The Soviet assistance, in all respects particularly in military sphere will be increased. The Republic of Afghanistan has a legitimate right to adopt defensive measures for the prevention of war and terrorism.

The crux of the matter is that the intransigent extremists should understand that the problem of Afghanistan can be solved merely through Peaceful means and there exists no other way but a national accord. The Armed Forces now have to use the most modern weapons against the spiteful extremists, which were not so far used. Those who want to keep on war should understand that they can gain nothing but destruction by it.

Najibullah Sends Independence Greetings to Angola

LD1111065088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 10 BAKHTAR—On the occasion of the thirteenth independence anniversary of the People's Republic of Angola a congratulatory message of the

president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC, Najibullah, has been sent to Luanda addressed to Jose Eduardos dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola and chairman of the MPLA-PT [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] Labour Party.

While expressing best wishes and congratulations of the Central Comittee of the PDPA to the Central Committee of the MPLA-PT party, the government and people of Angola the message says that the friendly and brotherly relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries, on the basis of interests of the peoples of the Repbulic of Afghanistan and Angola, will be further developed and strengthened for ensurance of international peace and security.

Najibullah Greets Jaruzelski on Anniversary

LD1211224888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent a congratulations message to Warsaw addressed to His Excellency Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of Poland United Workers Party and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Poland [PPE], on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of independence and founding of the Polish People's Republic.

In the message, he expressed his profound congratulations of the PDPA Central Committee, the government and the people of the Republic of Afghanistan to the Central Committee of the United Workers Party of Poland, the state and the heroic PPR people, it has been stressed that the notable victories of the heroic people of Poland during 70 years, as well as their struggle in various spheres of the political, social, and economic life and its [Poland's] international stance, enjoy the praise of its international friends.

Also, confidence has beeı expressed that the unshakable friendship between parties, governments, and people of both countries further expends and consolidates in the interests of the people of the republic of Afghanistan, of the PPR, and in the interests of international peace and security. [passage omitted]

Peasant Party Leader on Reconciliation

AU1111152288 Sofia BTA in English 1315 GMT 11 Nov 88

["Resolutely Along the Path to National Reconciliation"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, November 11 (BTA)—In an interview for ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME Mr 'Abdul Tavana [name as received], chairman of the Peasants' Justice Party of Afghanistan, told about the major tasks the party has got to implement.

He pointed out that the Peasants' Justice Party, which was founded last year, came into being as a result of the new policy of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan aimed at national reconciliation. "We realized that it is necessary to set up an organization which would work among the peasants and win them over for the process of national reconciliation. At the moment the main goal of the party is to put an end to the war which has been ruining the country for ten years now", said Mr 'Abdul Tavana.

"The second task of the party is to improve the life of the people. In the conditions of war and backwardness, our problems are difficult to be settled. That is why we are seeking to organize the masses, to make them realize the importance of the struggle for unity of peasants, so that this struggle becomes their inner conviction and their cause. One of the major goals the Peasants' Justice Party has set itself to achieve is creating a broad coalition of all political forces in the country. This is the only way of coping with our problems", Mr 'Abdul Tavana underlined.

Dwelling on the developments in Afghanistan, he said: "At the beginning of the struggle for a new democratic Afghanistan, we made mistakes which were made use of by the extremists, who managed to delude a great part of the people. The century-old backwardness, illiteracy and the Islamic traditions helped them in doing it." Mr 'Abdul Tavana explained that in this situation the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan deemed it necessary to form a united front of all democratic forces in the country.

The leader of the Peasants' Justice Party of Afghanistan said that the main purpose of his visit to Bulgaria is to study the experience of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Bulgarian Agrarian Party in their unity of action.

"We feel it is necessary to rationalize your historical experience and avail ourselves of it by taking into consideration the specifics of the situation in Afghanistan", stated Mr 'Abdul Tavana.

Rift Between Kabul Ruling Party Factions Widens

OW1311050188 Beijing XINHUA in English 1304 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, November 10 (XINHUA)—Rift between the two rival factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has considerably widened in the wake of an abortive coup attempt staged by supporters of the Khalq (People) Faction on October 8, AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) reported today.

The two factions, Khalq (People) and Parcham (Flag), have long had contradictory domestic and foreign policies and are hostile to each other.

Quoting a reliable source, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said the detectives of Najibullah, head of the Kabul regime, unearthed the conspiracy well in time and foiled the coup attempt against Najibullah.

Gulabzoy, a Khalq leader and the interior minister, was seen handcuffed, boarding a Moscow-bound plane at the Kabul International Airport under heavy guard on October 10, according to an eye witness.

In a bid to bridge the gap between the two irreconcilable rivals, Najibullah was summoned to Moscow by Kremlin office bearers a couple of days ago, but differences lingered on till Gulabzoy was sent to Moscow, the report noted.

118th Note on Pakistani Violations Submitted

LD1311103288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 12, BAKHTAR—One hundred eighteenth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on eight flagrant instances of violations by Pakistan from the Article Second, Document Number One, of Geneva agreements was handed over to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice it is specified that Pakistan by sending arms and ammunition and terrorists inside the Afghan soil escalates war and fratricide in the Republic of Afghanistan.

It asks UNGOMAP that on the basis of Article Seven, Document Number Four, of Geneva agreements investigate instances of Pakistani violations and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general from the results.

119th Note Handed Over

LD1411164188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 13, BAKHTAR—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan has submitted 119th notice to the United nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan UNGOMAP, on the repeated violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords. The notice involves precise information about the firing of surface-to-surface rockets in the fifth and sixth districts of Kabul city as a result of which one person was killed and two wounded.

The notice stipulates that the Government of Pakistan by despatching modern weapons especially long-range rockets to the extremists has given the latter the possibility to fire rockets into the crowded huge human and material losses. [sentence as received]

The notice asks UNGOMAP to investigate into the violations and to inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN special envoy of the findings.

Kabul Details Recent Armed Forces' Operations

Rebels Rocket Kabul

LD1211164288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting an Armed Forces spokesman, the BAKHTAR military section reports that the country's Armed Forces, by inflicting heavy blows on the extremists yesterday and today, have crushed 116 and wounded 76 warmonger extremists supported by the United States and Pakistan, including two of their ringleaders, 'Abdul Basir and Aqa Gol, in Qandahar, Paktia, Vardak, Parwan, and Herat Provinces.

As a result of a mopping up operation carried out during the past 2 days in the surroundings of Seyyed Karam and Zarmal Districts, 68 extremists were killed and another 64 injured. One surface-to-surface missile launcher, one mortar, one DShK, 60 light weapons, two trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition, and one enemy hideout were destroyed.

The Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar Province inflicted crushing blows on the enemy in the surroundings of this province yesterday. As a result of these blows, 24 extremists were crushed and another four injured. One surface-to-surface missile launcher was destroyed.

Mopping up operations were also carried out in Vardak and in Enjil District of Herat Provinces, as a result of which the armed extremists lost 12 of their men and another 7 were injured.

Because of a mopping up operation carried out by the Armed Forces in the surroundings of Chaprahar Subdistrict, 12 surface-to-surface missiles—deployed there by the extremists to be launched on Jalalabad city—were destroyed.

The criminal extremists once again fired two surface-to-surface missiles yesterday on the residential regions of Kabul city. These missiles hit the surroundings of Wards 5 and 6. As a result of this inhumane action by the warmonger extremists one of our compatriots, Bashir Ahmand, a builder, was martyred and two other compatriots, including a 7-year-old child, were injured. There were also material losses.

In the past 2 days the extremists savagely attacked the residential regions of Charikar city. Because of this barbarous action by the warmonger extremists, eight compatriots, including women and children, were martyred and a number were injured. Those injured were taken to the hospital and their medical conditions are said to be improving.

According to another report the extremists, by detonating a device today in (Babi Mahru) region of Kabul city, perpetrated another shocking crime. As a result of this cowardly action by the extremists, one person was martyred and another person was injured.

Attacks on Towr Kham Cited

LD1211203888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The firing of rockets on the residential regions of Kabul city and on the provinces, which kills defenseless people, takes place at a time when the opposition, with the assistance of Pakistan's Armed Forces, is trying to destabilize the situation in some border regions.

As you recently heard, Pakistan's security forces and militias, under the instruction of the country's experienced commanders, organized a heavy weapons attack in the Towr Kham region, the country's largest transit port, as well as on a security post surrounding Towr Kham, under the guise of a so-called Afghan mujahidin attack. They have also tried to occupy Shenwari Major District. This has resulted in enormous loss of life and material.

The country's Armed Forces took action against this situation to safeguard security and the people's peace. The Armed Forces inflicted heavy blows on the opposition in various regions and have foiled the opposition's plans.

Please pay attention to the reports and information gathered by the BIA correspondent and radio and television correspondents from various regions:

Our correspondents reported from Nangarhar Province a few hours ago that during the operation conducted by the vigilant security forces in Batsawul and (Marko), attached to Batsawul District, 72 anti-peace extremists were killed and three of their ringleaders, Chenar, Daftarkhan, and Shafiqullah, were arrested.

During this operation large weapon depots with heavy and light machineguns, were destroyed, and 106 surface-to-surface missiles and 1 communication set were seized by the security forces.

According to latest reports during today's combat operation two recoilless guns, three mortars, and two [word indistinct] trucks were destroyed. Four trucks loaded with weapons, 1 jeep, 4 Kalashnikovs, 3 .303 rifles, 2 depots of mortar mines, 4 heavy rocket launchers, 206 rockets, 1 ZK-1, 89 recoilless shells, 266 surface-to-surface missiles, 1 radio, 1 heavy machinegun, 1 artillery piece with 150 shells, and 1 medicine depot were seized. In total, 104 extremists were killed, 180 injured, and 9 men were arrested by the Armed Forces.

Our correspondent have carried out an interview with Major General 'Abdul Ghafur, deputy chief of the general staff and commander of operation of Nangarhar's Armed Forces:

[Begin Ghafur recording] I promise our people that the enemy will be crushed and this road will be rebuilt. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Operations in Provinces

LD1411065388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 13, BAKHTAR—During the fifteen past days the extremists groups fired 65,000 different kinds of shells including ground-to-ground rockets on the residential areas of Tarin Kowt, center of Oruzgan Province as a result of which one hundred residential houses, ten mosques, a number of state institutions, three schools and a hospital were damaged. The firing also killed twenty civilians including children and women and forty others wounded as well, reports our military correspondent from Tarin Kowt.

Recently, the Armed Forces carried out mopping operations in Tarin Kowt in close cooperation of the residents of that area as a result of which ninety-one extremists were killed including their six leaders and one hundred others sustained injuries.

According to another report, one-hundred and eighty-five persons attached to the extremists groupings were crushed on Saturday in Qandahar, Helmand, Vardak and Paktia Provinces during the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces carried out in the said areas. A large amount of arms and munitions of the extremists and their hideouts were destroyed during the operations as well.

The armed clashes continue between the extremists. Our military correspondent reports that ten extremists were killed and seventy others wounded as a result of the armed clashes which took place between Gulbuddin and Rabbani groupings on November eight in Keshke Kohna subdistrict and Zendajan and Gozara Districts of Herat Province.

Likewise, on Nov. ninth armed clashes occurred between the extremists groups of Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi and Gulbuddin in Muqor District of Ghazni Province as a result of which two persons were killed and one injured.

Our military correspondent reports from Jalalabad, center of Nangarhar Province that the Jalalabad-Towr Khan highway was opened today in the afternoon and the extremist elements, the Pakistani mercenaries and their foreign advisers were crushed.

Ninety-six extremists were killed and seventy-one others seriously wounded today during the mopping up operations carried out by the Armed Forces in the said area. A large amount of arms and munitions of the extremists were destroyed during the said operations as well.

'Extremist' Elements Destroyed

LD1411233088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] BAKHTAR, quoting a highly-placed Armed Forces source, reports that crushing blows were inflicted yesterday and today on armed extremist groups in the provinces of Qandahar, Zabol, Paktia, Baghlan, Balkh, and Samanagan. As a result, 235 extremist warmongers, backed by the United States and Pakistan, were killed, and 188 others were seriously wounded. Two Pakistani advisers were also among those killed.

During a mopping-up operation on the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway against the remaining armed extremists, 80 robber extremists were killed and 120 others wounded. The Armed Forces of the country destroyed 4 missiles, 5 mortars, 2 recoilless guns, 4 vehicles, and 17 positions belonging to the warmongering extremists. They also captured 3 sets of surface-to-surface rocket launchers, 4 guns, 4 rocket launchers, 170 surface-to-surface rockets and [words indistinct] shells. [passage indistinct]

The Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar Province carried out mopping-up operations around Qandahar city and in the (Sarpoza) area, as a result of which 29 extremists were killed. One surface-to-surface rocket-launching set, one DShK, one mortar, and six enemy positions were destroyed.

The Armed Forces inflicted crushing blows on warmongering extremists in Zabol Province. As a result, 16 extrremists were killed in the areas of (Nawkhez), (Jarollah), and [placename indistinct] of the province, and 17 others were wounded. Heavy weapons belonging to the criminals were destroyed.

The Armed Forces stationed in Paktia Province have achieved successes in the districts of (Zormat) and Seyyed Karam by inflicting crushing blows on the criminal concentration centers. As many as 30 criminals were killed and 10 others wounded in the operation. The extremist groups have been forced to retreat.

During routine Armed Forces operations 17 arsonists were killed and 7 others wounded in Baghlan Province.

In the process of mopping-up operations against the plundering extremists in Konduz Province, around the city of Konduz and in the districts of Qal'eh-ye Zal and Eman Saheb, 61 extremists including two Pakistani advisers were killed.

As a result of an Armed Forces operation mopping-up in Balkh Province, 20 extremist warmongers were killed and 25 others wounded in Balkh District. As many as 30 RPG's, 3 surface-to-surface rockets, 22 hand grenades and a number of light arms have also been captured by the country's Armed Forces.

A group of highwaymen and plunderers associated with Rabbani's extremist group which plundered the belongings of the people in the areas of (Aq Qamar) and Larghan in Samangan Province, came under the blows of the Armed Forces today. As a result, 12 of them were killed and 9 others wounded.

Armed Forces contingents based in Lowgar Province captured a 10-man group which was terrorizing the province, and seized their arms.

Armed extremist groups, which oppose the tranquillity and prosperity of our people, raided the residential area of (Qarghai) in Laghman Province with surface-to-surface rockets. As a result of their inhuman act one of our compatriots was killed and another one was wounded.

AFP: Rebels Fire 10 Missiles on Kabul

BK1411003888 Hong Kong AFP in English 2033 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Kabul, Nov 13 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels launched on Sunday a major attack on Kabul in a bid to make the city's airport inoperable as fighting increased throughout northeastern Afghanistan, witnesses and officials said.

The rebels fired at least ten missiles on Afghanistan's main airport from surrounding mountains, hitting the military wing, the officials said.

(Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency TASS reported that three rebel surface-to-surface missiles had struck a Soviet helicopter base in Kabul.

(The attack on the base and on the Kabul airport occurred in two waves, TASS said, without providing any casualty figures.

(Observers in Moscow noted that it was rare for TASS to report on damage to Soviet installations in the country resulting from rebel attacks.

Rebel surface-to-surface missiles battered villages, a government-owned factory and the military zone around the strategic airport, but caused little damage to the airport, officials said.

Two people were injured when a missile landed short of the airport and exploded amid hundreds of crates of glass in the Khana Shazi locality during the four-hour attack, officials said. At least one missile hit the military wing of the civilian airport while another shattered windows, witnesses said.

It was the resistance's second attack on Kabul in the past two days. On Saturday the rebels launched four missiles that left two people dead. [passage omitted]

(A mujahidin official in Islamabad said the guerillas had also launched a series of attacks along the Salang Highway linking Kabul to the Soviet Union.

(The attacks were carried out by Jamiat-e Eslami faction led by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, said Daoud Mir, a political adviser to the group.

(Mr. Mas'ud's forces are based in the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul in Parvan Province and close to the strategic 350-kilometre (210 mile) highway along which Soviet troops withdrawing from Afghanistan must travel.

(Mujahidin sources in the Pakistani city of Peshawar said meanwhile that 10,000 Afghans have sought refuge in northwestern Pakistan during the past week to escape stepped fighting in adjacent northeastern Afghanistan.

(The Moscow-backed Afghan Government has shelled rebel positions from Kabul with newly acquired surface-to-surface SS-1 Scud missiles, which have a range of 180 kilometers (112 miles). Diplomats have said the missiles have been fired north and east of Kabul. [passage omitted]

Islamabad Reports Latest Mujahidin Operations

'Fierce Battles' in 4 Provinces

BK1311154088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that fierce battles are raging between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime's troops in Nangarhar, Balkh, Parvan, and Ghazni Provinces. In Nangarhar, the mujahidin overran Ghaziabad farm and the district headquarters of Bati Kowt, capturing 100 Afghan military personnel, along with many vehicles, 8 tanks, and armored personnel carriers. The mujahidin are now advancing toward the Jalalabad garrison and have already overrun the area up to Chahar Divar.

The mujahidin carried out heavy weapons attacks on certain Kabul military positions in Mazar-e Sharif and also captured two posts of the Kabul regime in the (Tamitnaq) area of Balkh Province.

Another report says the mujahidin attacked the Kabul troops' positions around Ghazni city, destroying an ammunition dump and capturing six officers and seven soldiers.

'Sophisticated' Weapons Seized

BK1411062988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say in their recent operations against the Shikari Darra garrison, the mujahidin have seized a large quantity fo sophisticated arms, including anti-aircraft guns. It is reported that the mujahidin also seized medium-range mortars, a number of military trucks, and a large quantity of defense equipment. Also, a rocket brigade of the Kabul forces surrendered to the mujahidin.

Pressure on Highways Increased

BK1511033488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are intensifying their military pressure on major highways and launching continuous attacks on the convoys trying to advance along the Salang highway. The mujahidin launched attacks to close the the Salang highway and tunnel carlier this month. These included the area between the (Kar Baghlan) highway and Mazar-e Sharif and the area near Kabul.

The mujahidin say that in their five separate attacks in the northern areas, they destroyed seven tanks, some armored cars, and trucks. In their attack near Robatak, the mujahidin killed 20 Kabul soldiers. They ambushed a Kabul regime convoy south of the Salang tunnel, destroying 20 tanks and trucks. Another report says the mujahidin captured 10 security posts on the Jalalabad highway. The Kabul regime's forces are launching a major retaliatory attack to recapture the Ghani Kheyl cantonment in the east of Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, Soviet television reported that the military situation in Afghanistan is fast deteriorating. Mujahidin activities have increased and they have had control over many provinces.

4 Kabul Regime Aircraft Downed

BK1511090188 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down four aircraft of the Kabul regime in Nangarhar Province. Of these, two were reportedly shot down by the mujahidin in Ghani Kheyl, one in Heydarabad town, and the third at Jalalabad airport.

House of Representatives Holds General Session

LD1411064588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 13, BAKHTAR—The general session of the House of Representatives was held today here presided over by Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the house.

The general session in addition to the approval of some items of the law of advocacy of the Republic of Afghanistan, approved unanimously the resolution on the support expressed for the peace proposals of President Najibullah which were put forth in the joint session of the National Assembly.

The resolution says that the participants of the general session of the House of Representatives fully back the peace proposals of the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah, and regard them as a significant step towards maintenance of peace in the country.

The participants also welcomed the proposal of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan to appeal to the UN Security Council to [words indistinct] the repeated and systematic violations of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan and the USA.

The appeal will give the UN Security council the opportunity to assess precisely the process of realization of the agreements and take serious measures for full observance of the agreements.

The resolution demands from the international community to adopt extensive and practical measures for removal of the obstacles created by some countries especially Pakistan on the way of return of the emigrants to their homeland.

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan calls upon all parliaments of the countries to spare no efforts for realization of the peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan and maintenance of peace in Afghanistan.

Appendix to Law on State Salaries Approved

LD1411162288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has issued the following decree on Appendix No 1 of the law on salaries for senior state positions.

In line with the provisions of Paragraph 2 of Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan I approve Appendix No 1 which consists of three articles, to the Law on Salaries for Senior State Positions, passed by the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan; its compliance with the provisions of the Constitution has been endorsed by the Constitution Council. This decree, along with Appendix No 1 to the Law on Salaries for Senior State Positions shall be sent to the Ministry of Justice for publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Appendix No 1 to the Law on Salaries for Senior State Positions

Article I. The provisions of the Law on Salaries for Senior State Positions shall be enforced as follows:
1. Regarding the president from the date of (his) election by the Loya Jirgah,
2. Regarding vice-presidents from their date of election by the Milli Shura,
3. Regarding elected deputies and senators from their date of election,
4. Regarding appointed senators from the date of the presidential decree on their appointment,
5. Regarding chairmen of the chambers of the Milli Shura from the date of their election as chairman of a chamber,
6. Regarding the prime minister and members of government from the date of their obtaining a vote of confidence from the Wolasi Jirgah,
7. Regarding the chief justice, his deputies, and members of the Supreme Court, chairman and members of the Constitution Council, and the attorney general and his deputies from the date of the president's decree on their appointment.

Article II. The provision of this law is enforcible for the positions set out in Article II [as heard] that are elected, appointed or employed in keeping with the 29 November 1987 Constitution.

Article III. This appendix shall be enforcible after being approved by the president and shall be published in Official Gazette.

Bangladesh

President Inaugurates New Transmitter 11 Nov

BK1111132288 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The Thakurgaon transmitting station of Radio Bangladesh has been formally commissioned. President Ershad inaugurated the station at a simple but colorful function in Thakurgaon today.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ershad said that radio still remains the cheapest medium for disseminating information, which is the key to progress and prosperity of any developing country like Bangladesh.

Recalling the services rendered by radio personnel during the War of Independence and natural calamities like floods, the president said they should now work with the same zeal and spirit to make the country happy and prosperous.

With the commissioning of the 10 kw transmitter every nook and corner of the country now comes under the nationwide radio broadcasting system. The station, which involved an expenditure of over 30 million taka, will relay programs of the Dhaka station of Radio Bangladesh.

India

Gandhi Lauds Troops for Assistance to Maldives

BK1111045188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has criticized the opposition for its attempts to divide the people on cast and communal lines.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting in Vellore in Tamil Nadu yesterday, Mr Rajiv Gandhi cautioned the people that cast and communal politics will only weaken the country.

He said the government's policies and programs have helped the country to regain its strength. It is now in a position to help its neighbors in distress.

In this connection, Mr Gandhi referred to the recent assistance rendered by India to Maldives in the wake of a coup attempt there. Mr Rajiv Gandhi congratulated the Armed Forces for completing the task assigned to them in the shortest possible duration.

Gandhi Lays Foundation Stone at Naval Base

BK1211164688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, laid the foundation stone of the naval air base at (?Arakkonam) in Tamil Nadu a short while ago. This station is being constructed in an area of over 250 hectares.

A 100 crore rupee air base will be operational by the end of 1990. It will be an all weather airport having the largest runway in the country. This station has been planned in such a way that it can also be used as an alternative to Madras airport in times of emergency.

The naval base will be mainly for long range reconnaissance and antisubmarine aircraft.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said a national consensus should be evolved for not criticizing the Armed Forces. He also stressed the importance of keeping the coast line under our control.

The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, said the naval air base will safeguard India's oil installations in the eastern coast.

Tiwari Assesses Relations With Pakistan

BK1211085588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.K. Tiwari, has expressed the hope that relations with Pakistan will improve after elections are held in that country.

Opening a seminar on security in Asia and the Pacific in the nineties, Mr Tiwari regretted that Pakistan has not yet desisted from supporting terrorism in Punjab and is pursuing its clandestine nuclear weapons program.

Chinese Delegation Meets With Vice President

BK1111045988 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] A five-member delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries called on the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, in New Delhi today. This delegation is headed by [name indistinct], vice president of the association.

During their meeting lasting about half an hour, members of the delegation apprised Dr Sharma of their association's efforts in promoting better understanding among the people of the countries. Various other matters relating to India-China friendship also came up for discussion. The delegation is currently in India at the invitation of the India-China Society.

Bombay Police, Customs Seize Heroin, Hashish

BK1511060088 Hong Kong AFP ain English 0521 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 15 (AFP)—Indian police and customs in the western port city of Bombay have seized 2,656 kilograms (5,843 pounds) of narcotics with an international street value of 55 million dollars in two of the year's biggest drug hauls, press reports said Tuesday.

Bombay police intercepted a car on a highway leading to the neighbouring city of Pune Sunday and seized 56 kilograms (123 pounds) of "brown sugar", an unrefined form of heroin, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) said.

Three occupants of the car were arrested, UNI said, adding that police believed the narcotics worth 40 million dollars had been smuggled in from Pakistan across the border with the Indian desert state of Rajasthan.

In a separate case Sunday, customs officials seized from the Bombay docks a shipment of 2,600 kilograms (5,720) of hashish worth 15 million dollars, the news agency said. The shipment was bound for the Netherlands, but no arrests were reported.

The two hauls were the biggest since the October 14 seizure of narcotics valued at 77 million dollars in the northern Indian state of Punjab.

Drug seizures have shown a dramatic increase after India passed a tough anti-narcotics law in 1985. Last year 67 tonnes of drugs including 2,747 kilograms (6,040 pounds) of heroin were seized.

The crackdown on drug trafficking in India have been backed up by huge hauls in the West made on information provided by New Delhi's anti-narcotic agencies.

In 1985 India's share in Europe's illegal narcotics trade was 35 percent, but this fell to 26 percent in 1986 and further to seven percent in 1987.

Mauritius Governor General Arrives 12 Nov

BK1211125488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The governor general of Mauritius, Mr Veerasamy Ringadoo, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon to a ceremonial welcome. He was received at the Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] by the president, Mr R. Venkataraman. Union ministers Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, Mr Bhajan Lal, Mr Moti Lal Vora, and Mr K.R. Narayanan, were also present.

Mr Ringadoo inspected the guard of honor presented by the three services as 21 guns boomed in salute. Later speaking to newsmen, Mr Ringadoo commended India's timely military assistance to the Maldives which, he said, saved democracy in the island republic. On Indo-Mauritius relations, Mr Ringadoo described them as friendly and cordial.

Burmese Refugees Reluctant To Return Home

BK1011153088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 10 (AFP)—The Indian Government has contacted Rangoon authorities over the fate of some 200 Burmese who have fled to India, a minister quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Thursday.

Minister of State for Home Santosh Mohan Dev told PTI that the Burmese Government was willing to take back the refugees, but they were reluctant to go home fearing reprisal by the military regime.

Mr Dev reportedly said the refugees, mostly students, were living in three relief camps in Mizoram and Manipur States, bordering Burma.

Mr Dev said the governments of the two states, where the refugees had crossed over the border after the September 18 coup by General Saw Maung, had been directed to segregate them from the public.

The minister was quoted as saying that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government was in contact with Rangoon, but PTI did not give details. PTI reported last week that the number of refugees totalled some 200. No latest estimate was available.

Iran

Palestinian Declaration 'Unsound, Unenduring'

LD1511144488 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 15 Nov 88

["'Arafat's Dream, Palestinians' Nightmare"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—The declaration by the Palestine National Council of an independent Palestinian state with Bayt al-Moqaddas (Jerusalem) as its capital did not take anyone by surprise.

At last after more than 40 years since the formation of Israel in the land of Palestine the moderate Palestinian leaders have laid the foundations for a state alongside Israel according to relevant U.N. resolutions.

The foundations of the state-to-be, however, is unsound and unenduring.

Though it is obvious that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will try to present this as a victory for himself, nevertheless the question remains whether the right conditions exist for the formation of a legitimate state and for its recognition by other states or not.

In the declaration the boundaries of the Palestinian state was not specified. But it appears that the intention is to limit the state to the Israel-occupied West Bank where Jordan recently in effect handed over responsibility to the Palestinian inhabitants, and the Gaza Strip.

Within these areas, the world has witnessed one of the most spectacular popular movements of recent decades which is still continuing after 11 months. But the Palestinian uprising has not received the support it deserves and its demands have met deaf ears.

The Palestinian forces will now have to decide on how they are going to deal with the Zionist occupiers. Will they recognize the occupation of a vast part of Palestine and the boundaries of Israel?

What is certain is that 'Arafat's conciliatory maneuvers will not be the only determining factor in the conflict. The Muslim Palestinian people will continue their revolutionary movement against the Zionist occupiers.

Reportage on Islamic Revolution Committee Meeting

Majlis Speaker Addresses Session

LD1211121188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The acting commander in chief's speech at the third meeting of the Islamic Revolution Committees' commanders and officials is the subject of the hour's first news report:

In the presence of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief, the opening ceremony of the third meeting of the Islamic Revolution Committees' commanders and officials from throughout the country was held in Tehran's Martyr Mostafa Khomeyni Garrison.

The gathering was attended by a number of Majlis deputies; several members of his eminence the imam's secretariat; a group of Ministry of Interior deputies;

Islamic Revolution Committee commanders and officials from throughout the country; Hojjat ol-Eslam Serajeddin Musavi, the imam's representative and the commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Committees; a number of military and security officials; and the head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani reviewed the forces stationed there, and after the performance of a song by the children of Islamic Revolution Committee martyrs, a motorcycle maneuvers exhibition, several samples of patrol and combat-defense operations, and a demonstration of vehicles driving through an obstacle course, the committee forces marched past the reviewing stand.

Then, the acting commander in chief expressed the hope that the gathering would prove useful and beneficial for the country's safety and security affairs. He said: Due to the possible ending of the war, now is a suitable time for the committee commanders to study the past and the existing situation and facilities and to strengthen their particular security programs.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the Geneva peace talks, saying: As a result of Iraq's incorrect assertions in the talks, our suspicions about those who claim they want peace have been reinforced. By raising the idea of peace, they want to prevent the victory of Islam and for them, the best situation is the establishment of no war, no peace conditions.

At any rate, we must either achieve peace or return to war; this state is cannot be sustained. If we achieve peace, and that is our desire, the committee must prepare itself and it must, along with other security forces, bear a grave responsibility. And if we return to war, part of the committee's security forces will perform their duties in the war, as before, and part of them will undertake their duties in security affairs.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then praised the committees' valuable services, especially the presence of the committee's forces on the battlefronts throughout the course of the imposed war. He lauded the role of clergymen in the committees and added:

Humane behavior, a correct manner of behavior toward the people, and the use of the infinite popular strength is the security forces' secret of success. And security forces must be reinforced in such a way that they are considered by the people as their defenders so that the people will derive a sense of safety from their presence and consider themselves and their property to be secure. Thieves and offenders must also fear the security forces' strength and decisiveness. That is the best image of a good police force.

Concluding his remarks, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani mentioned the religiously forbidden deeds of drugs smugglers: We find in ourselves the strength for combatting them. The committee is the spearhead of that movement and the the Council for the Discernment of Interest [shora-ye tashkhis-e maslehat] and the cabinet have thought of the necessary measures. You must confront it with the necessary training, which will be discussed in this gathering.

According to IRNA, at the start of the ceremony, Mr Serajeddin Musavi, the imam's representative and the commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees, spoke about the Islamic Revolution Committee's role and responsibility.

Further on Address to Commanders

LD1311151088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Address by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Majlis, to the third meeting of Islamic Revolution Committee commanders in Tehran on 12 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am happy to have this opportunity to meet the self-sacrificing and devoted brothers of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee at this training center. I hope this great gathering of the committee's commanders and officials will be productive, effective and auspicious for the future of the committee and that of the country's military and security forces.

This is a suitable occasion—which has arisen due to the possible end of the war, under conditions of our situation between peace and no war—for the officials of this revolutionary organization to use this opportunity to review the past and present situations, and our capabilities, obstacles, and needs in order to draw up plans and inform officials of the committee's position, In this way the committee's development process can be expedited even faster.

In the brief time frame that I had to witness your actions, you fortunately have displayed good battle plans, and the limited exercises that were carried out reflected the total preparedness of the committee forces. I am aware that this period was not long enough for you to demonstrate all your abilities.

It still is not clear to us whether or not we have come out of the war era. The suspicions we harbored from the start of the war have been reinforced by the Iraqi regime's raising of pretexts, the trend of progress in the talks, and the Iraqi regime's false assertions. In the course of the war we gave constant warnings that those who talk of peace do not seek it. They are afraid of the victory of Islam and they talk of peace in order to prevent its victory. They depict Islam, Iran, and our revolution as warmongering and adventuring in order to prevent us from attracting the thirsting people of the world. They seek to keep public opinion confused when we could have uttered that the best thing for it is neither peace nor war.

They seek to establish an arms race in the region. They do not want the country to carry out construction and reconstruction in a secure and tranquil environment, nor do they want unity in the region against the enemies of Islam and the elimination of the unlawful interests of arrogance and colonialism in the region. It is apparent that they are pursuing precisely what has always been a cause for concern for the world's freedom-seekers and revolutions. Due to its unfortunate affiliations, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has the potential to bring about the implementation of these schemes. In its warmongering behavior, its aggressions, and now by raising pretexts, it tries to prevent the achievement of peace.

At any rate, we have no idea whether we will achieve peace or resume the war. I am certain that this period of uncertainty, this neither peace-nor-war state, will not last and will end at some point. If we achieve peace as we desire, it will open the way for the flourishing of Islamic ideas. The committee then will be able to reinforce its specific law and order programs. If we resume the war, which would be a return to the previous conditions, then you brethren of the committee forces will carry on as before: some performing their duties in the war, and some in the construction of the country.

You are aware that your main responsibility and that of the police force is to carry out disciplinary actions in cities, villages, and interior regions, as well as in the sensitive border regions. In the course of the war, you were present alongside the other strata of people, and we witnessed the effective endeavors of the committee forces on the battlefronts. The Spirit of God [Ruhollah] Division had one of the most sensitive sections of the border under its control, and carried out its activities on a large scale.

At last, the participation of the committee forces in the Mersad operations alongside the rest of the military, disciplinary, and popular forces, and the role you played in the Eslamabad-Ilam axis and the crushing of the enemy's infiltration in the south was apparent to our nation, to yourselves, and to the war commanders and officials.

At any rate, if we return to the state of war, we will be in the same position as before, but with greater preparedness and better training, which you managed to gain during this time. If we achieve peace, you will be faced with new situations and with fundamental issues for which you must totally prepare yourselves. In any case, in the next few years the committee forces, alongside the rest of the law and order forces, have a grave responsibility.

Your first duty, which already has begun, is to improve training. Your training must have more depth. With the aid of the scientific methods used by Interpol, with experience, and with an element of faith, virtue, and devotion—which is one of the characteristics of you Muslim youth—you could be an extremely effective law and order force for the revolution. The remarkable spirituality among you is acknowledged. At the time when the revolution was in dire need of disciplinary forces, when no one in the country took the responsibility for maintaining a law and order force, the clergy laid the foundation in the mosques.

There still are a number of these great, holy figures among you to fulfill the need for their presence. You should take the utmost advantage of such figures who, throughout the period of their service and management, proved their capabilities to everyone. Their moral behavior, knowledge of Islam, and religious and ideological constitution provide a great resource for the law and order forces.

Another issue of great importance in this training—regarding which, God willing, we will give a seminar—is that of the moral and humane behavior of the disciplinary forces toward the people. The secret of success for the disciplinary forces, which are present among the people and deal with them constantly, is to learn how to treat people in the proper manner, how to gain their trust, and take advantage of this immense force, this great ocean of the strength of the people. The disciplinary forces who deal with people night and day should move through society like a fish through water. By this I mean that they should feel comfortable, intimate, and friendly with people, while preserving the firmness of a decisive agent against corruptness.

You should train your forces through your training programs so that they will act as their redeeming angels. In this way the people will feel secure, sleep peacefully at night, and consider their homes and possessions safe, when they see your forces on the streets, in the squares, on the roads, and in public places. On the other hand, the traitors, the corrupt individuals, thieves, and murderers will constantly fear their strength and decisiveness.

This is the best advertisement for a good police force, the best image for a good police force: that honest people, who usually form the majority of the society, should feel secure because of them, and feel warm toward them; and that corrupt and treacherous people should be afraid of them. If you manage to display such manners. [incomplete sentence as heard]. And our young people have the potential to achieve this, and we should help them through our reconstruction plans.

The committee started its work when no training existed. The young men contacted the committee from their homes, from mosques, factories, bazaar shops, schools, and universities in order to perform their duty of establishing security. So far, due to the war and other factors and the lack of training facilities, we have not had the opportunity to provide extensive and planned training. There has been some training and we have worked hard to provide even that much. However, if a new era of peace starts you must certainly remedy this shortcoming and attach greater value and importance to the issue of training.

At the moment, we have a number of very important issues in our country which, because of the war, we have not been able to attend properly. One of those issues is narcotics. The issue of narcotics is a worldwide calamity. It is not a problem which concerns us alone. In the United States also, you see that it is the issue of the day and was one of the most discussed issues in the U.S. presidential elections. In other countries such as Canada, Britain, France, and elsewhere it is also the issue of the day. It is a calamity which is faced by the whole world.

We should fight against this curse and every country should adopt its own methods. In countries such as ours this calamity has a political dimension as well. Those who wish our young people to be absent from everyday life, absent from the political life, to be indifferent and to be addicted; those who wish to see our families afflicted with the problems of their children; those who wish to see our society faced with economic difficulties resulting from the loss of its young people's energy, all spread this corruption to Third World countries, particularly those countries of a revolutionary nature.

However, this calamity has gradually afflicted themselves as well. They imagined that they could inflict this curse on Third World countries and remain immune, but today God has punished them for this crime and they are also faced with the same problem.

We feel that we are capable of fighting against this great evil. For us the Islamic Revolution Committee spearheads this battle. The assembly in charge of discerning the system's interest has prepared the necessary regulations for you and the judiciary, so that you will have the necessary legal tools.

The government will try to provide you with executive resources, while you should try to save the country's young people, your brothers, your compatriots, your coreligionists who are exposed to the danger of being afflicted with this devastating calamity. God willing, the program will be announced at an appropriate time and under the appropriate conditions. You should lay the groundwork for this program in this seminar.

The issue of those activities which are strongly discouraged [monkarat] is still a problem we face in this country. Western colonialism for many decades tried to cut off this country culturally from Islam. It introduced all types of corruption, indecency, and decadence to the people. You young people who have recently joined this garrison may not be very familiar with conditions existing under the former regime.

When the revolution took place many of you were still less than 10 years old. At that time you were not aware of what they were doing to the people through television, radio, newspapers, magazines, cinemas, cabarets, cafes, beaches, streets, squares, parks, and other corrupting influences which existed in this country. Some of these have not yet been rooted out. The Western world has still not given up its expectations in this regard and is trying all sorts of tricks to sedate our young people.

The campaign against these influences has its own special methods. This task cannot be achieved through suppression and physical harshness. This kind of behavior has psychological roots, and should be confronted with psychological means and expert doctors. This is something which can be achieved by the entire nation. You are only in charge of one aspect of this effort.

The judiciary, propaganda organizations—especially the Voice and Vision—the newspapers, the clergy, the universities, schools—if all of them unite and if they formulate and implement a comprehensive plan, we can succeed in this task. You are one of the important elements in this task and you should enter the field with necessary training. This is a long-term problem.

In any case, I wish to conclude my remarks by saying that the committee's young men should prepare themselves to act as trained experts, psychologists, familiar with society's issues and their duties; to be kind to the people, and harsh and angry toward criminals and corrupt individuals throughout society; and to act as a model police force in the Islamic world and in the rest of the world. You possess this capacity in human resources and capabilities. You need management and training and the necessary means and, God willing, each section will perform its tasks. We are also at your service.

I urge every one of you to regard it your duty to achieve coordination, friendhip, sincerity, and cooperation with other forces, with the Guards Corps, with Iran's Armed Forces, with the Gendarmerie, with the police, and especially with the mobilization forces which will cooperate with you. God willing, together you will form a healthy, useful, and effective military and security force.

I entrust you to God and I pray for your success, well-being and health. I also thank all the brothers who have participated in this meeting. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Musavi Speech on Narcotics

LD1511100288 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] This afternoon the Islamic Revolution Committees [IRC] commanders' conference concluded its work after receiving a message from Prime Minister Musavi. In his concluding speech the prime minister attributed the strength of the IRC's to the people's trust and said: Committees are the first Islamic institution which embodied all the Islamic revolution's values. This institution should always try to support the people and the oppressed and should serve Islamic values.

Musavi described the IRC's duties and said: Discipline is one of the most essential principles within a security institution, and according to reports received this principle is observed in the committees. Observance of this principle certainly gains more respect for this institution within society as a whole.

The prime minister continued by pointing to the IRC's valuable efforts to combat drug addiction. He considered the strengthening of the IRC's to be an act which enhances the power of the revolution and the system. He then expressed the hope that future expansion of resources available to this institution would enable it to fight corruption and drug addiction more effectively.

In conclusion, Musavi said: The plan recommended by the three powers [judiciary, executive, and legislative] and aimed at confronting the drug-pushers has been ratified by the Council for Discerning What Is Best and will be announced soon. In this scheme the IRC's play a crucial role. He expressed the hope that with the necessary cooperation, drug abuse and drug dealers will be dealt with more firmly.

Khomeyni Receives Report

LD1411124288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpts] A report on last year's performance and next year's programs of the Islamic Revolution Committee was submitted by Serajoddin Musavi, overall commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees, during a meeting between the organization's commanders and officials and Imam Khomeyni. We start our news reports section with a report on the meeting:

[Serajoddin Musavi] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. We thank the great leader for receiving his children. The audience includes a number of Islamic Revolution Committees commanders and officials from all over the country and a group of relatives of our dear brother Guards from the region, who have the honor of meeting his eminence. [passage omitted]

We hope this meeting will boost their morale, so that they will fight against pagans and enemies of Islam in various towns, and unite and perform their duties in friendship and harmony throughout the country.

Thank God, we can say to Your Eminence here and now that today there is no difference of opinion between our committee brothers and any other organization anywhere in the country. Today they all heed their imam's call, in unison. They are prepared to sacrifice their lives, treat their friends amicably and enemies decisively and strongly. God willing, they will rout them. We will now say our usual prayers for long life for the great leader. [passage omitted]

Commentary on U.S. Asset Freeze, Bush Election

LD1311191388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1625 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The recent U.S. Government decision to continue the freeze on Iranian assets in that country for 1 more year once again demonstrates how deeply opposed the United States is to the essence of the Islamic revolution. This action once again exposes the depth of U.S. hostility to the Muslim nation of Iran.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in a formal statement to Congress last week, pointed out that it is necessary to keep the assets of the Iranian people frozen for 1 more year. The U.S. President's message to Congress on extending the freeze stated: Normalization of Iranian-U.S. political and trade relations has not yet been achieved.

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Velayati, in a recent interview in Geneva, announced that 10 years after the Islamic revolution's victory, the United States has still not abandoned its hostile policies toward this revolution. He referred to the downing of an Iranian passenger airliner by the U.S. Navy and the freezing of Iran's assets in the United States as two clear examples of the hostile U.S. policy toward Iran.

Regarding the election of George Bush as U.S. President, the foreign minister stated: The U.S. policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran has not changed. The United States is still pursuing its former policy.

George Bush was elected U.S. President last week. He was the U.S. representative to the Security Council session that discussed the downing of the Iranian passenger plane by the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf in July. In a speech there, he referred to the action of the U.S. Navy warship "Vincennes" in downing the Iranian passenger airliner as an act of self-defense. As a result of that barbaric action, more than 290 innocent people burned in the fire of the wrath of the U.S. Government's statesmen.

Following this action, the U.S. Government even refused to apologize. The U.S. hostility to Iran stems from that country's understanding of the truly anti-imperialist nature of the Islamic revolution, a revolution which considers the United States to be its staunchest enemy. [passage omitted]

One of Iran's conditions for reducing tension in Iranian-U.S. relations is the settlement of financial disputes and the unfreezing of billions of dollars of Iranian assets in the United States. The freezing of these assets is only one example of U.S. hostility to the Islamic revolution. The nature of the Islamic revolution forced the United States to hatch and implement various plots in the past 10 years in order to defeat or divert it.

Other examples of these conspiracies are the direct military aggression against Iran in Tabas, plotting several coups, participation in the imposed war on the side of Iraq, exertion of economic pressure, dispatching forces to the Persian Gulf, and downing the Iranian passenger airliner.

Many observers have confessed that any of the U.S. plots could destroy a revolution or divert it from its aspirations. Now the heroic nation of Iran, shouldering the burden of struggle, steadfastness, and devotion, pictures the United States as ugly and satanic. It is certain that it will never forget the cruelty and tyranny of U.S. statesmen against the Iranian nation. The imam of the ummah, in his recent message which was named the Charter of Brotherhood, explicitly referred to the United States as the Iranian people's number one enemy.

IRNA Cites UK Press on Resumption of Ties

LD1111162888 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 11, IRNA—The British press Friday identified some of the trials and tribulations Britain had to go through to normalise relations with Iran in what were otherwise partisan reports of the agreement signed Thursday.

The extent of British troubles was underlined by the marathon of more than 50 hours of negotiations and the necessity of a memorandum of understanding to underwrite the agreement, which in line with the U.K's insistence on secrecy was not questioned by dailies here.

The FINANCIAL TIMES described the talks ending in Vienna as proving to be the final round of "tortuous negotiations" to resume normal diplomatic relations and said that "years of hostility and bitterness" had been now put behind.

It pointed out that Britain's weak position was that it has been the only European power without representation in Iran and that the British Government was "anxious" to take advantage of any reconstruction boom.

Even right up to the last minute a definite accord was "in doubt" with Iran insisting that Britain takes the blame for the breakdown in relations, the paper said but maintained that the agreement "does not apportion blame."

Sources close to the Vienna talks dispute this claim as being patriotically kind to Britain as it is thought that the memorandum of understanding goes far in acknowledging London's acceptance of its past record in relations with Iran.

The London GUARDIAN and INDEPENDENT newspapers also reported that right up to the signing there was still acrimony over the past and what the Foreign Office expected to have been a mere formality turned into a hectic few hours.

Britain's approaches towards Iran date back more than 7 months with the press (?reporting) that the initiative came from Tehran and arguing that the U.K. should should set pre-conditions, including the release of two spies held in Iranian gaols and gaining assistance on freeing British hostages in Lebanon.

Even Foreign Secretary Howe maintained as late as June that there could be "no fundamental improvement" in relations unless Iran made significant changes but was increasingly seen as mere rhetoric as it was recognised it was Britain changing its policy.

The embarrassment for London was exemplified by THE INDEPENDENT daily, which pointed out that Howe had announced a resumption of relations on September 30 but was unable to meet his words for more than 5 weeks because Iran "held out to ratify" the agreement.

Britain had won "no assurances" on the two British spies in Tehran, it reported. Even the Foreign Office has had to admit that the foreign secretary had to send a further letter to Iran to "speed up" the negotiations.

Seeing the London government with only "egg on its facei and being unable to achieve any pre-conditions, the right-wing press largely reverted back to what benefits are offered by a restoration of ties, often mischievously focusing on gaining help for hostages in Lebanon.

The London TIMES acknowledged that the normalization of relations had been gained by Britain's "patient diplomacy" but despite stating the "multifarious advantages" presented, it went on to insist it reflected a "heartening change of mood in Iran."

Not only was there a "considerable" potential for bilateral trade with Iran, which is in a better financial position than Iraq, but there was Iran's "strategic" implications that had made Britain with the U.S. consciously build up the deposed shah as a "regional surrogate," it said.

Such was Iran's importance that even after last year's diplomatic confrontation, the U.K.'s choice was to have "never completely severed its relations" with the Islamic government, the paper believed.

It went on to warn however, in its right-wing tradition, that progress should remain "cautious" as Tehran was still "volatile, difficult to deal with and potentially unreliable."

Soviet Official, Iravani Discuss Cooperation

LD1311225188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] We begin the news with a report about a meeting between the Soviet deputy chairman of the state committee for construction with our country's minister of economic affairs and finance.

Mr Bortnev, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Construction, who has come to Tehran at the head of a construction delegation in order to study joint cooperation in the construction sphere, met and conferred this afternoon with Mr Mohammad Javad Iravani, the minister of economic affairs and finance.

In the meeting, Mr Iravani referred to the possibilities of cooperation between the two countries on programs pertaining to the country's reconstruction and stressed the importance of increasing the manufacture of building materials.

The minister of economic affairs and finance also referred to existing programs of cooperation between the two countries. He asked that the Soviet Union take more effective measures to expedite the preliminary operations for expanding the Esfahan steel mill to a capacity of 1.9 million tonnes of steel per year, and also the plans to construct dams on the Aras, Atrak, and Harirud Rivers on the border. He also discussed the expansion and completion of plans pertaining to transport between the two countries.

The deputy chairman of the Soviet state committee for construction stressed his country's inclination and resolve to maintain and expand friendly relations between the two countries. He said that the Soviet construction delegation plans to study, in addition to those programs within the framework of the permanent commission for economic cooperation between the two countries, the implementation of other projects needed for the Islamic Republic's reconstruction. They hope to identify those projects targeted for cooperation, and at the end of the visit to sign a memorandum of understanding.

Mr Iravani welcomed the Soviet party's desire to expand cooperation with Iran. He stressed that this cooperation could be included within the framework of the meeting of the two countries permanent commissions for economic cooperation.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Leaves After Talks

LD1411092588 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left here this morning at the end of a 3-day official visit. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Yaqub Khan accompanied by a political delegation held talks with Iranian officials on expansion of mutual ties, the developments in Afghanistan and the country's future as well as Iran's relations with Persian Gulf states.

In an interview before departure, Yaqub Khan described his talks as illuminating and fruitful. He added that Pakistan always attached particular significance to consultations and negotiations with Iranian officials on regional issues.

Meanwhile, Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who was also at the airport, said the talks stressed further expansion of Tehran-Islamabad politico-economic ties.

He said the two sides also stressed coordination in bringing closer the viewpoints of the Afghan mujahidin's seven-party and eight-party coalitions in Peshawar and Iran respectively. It was decided a delegation of the mujahidin visit Tehran for this purpose.

Iran's ties with Persian Gulf states was another issue discussed between Yaqub Khan and Iranian officials. Iran's relations with the regional countires are improving after the former accepted the Aug. 20 cease-fire (with Iraq).

Aqazadeh Interviewed on OPEC, Domestic Plans

LD1011192988 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—Investments are absolutely necessary in the oil sector if Iran's production level is to go up, said Gholamreza Aqazadeh. He also suggested the Oil Ministry's control over the industrial sector would not only economize consumption of white oil but would save the country considerable amount of foreign exchange.

In an interview published in an English daily today, the oil minister said Iran will stay in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and went on to highlight the role and significance of OPEC. He called on the organization to adopt long-term strategies on oil production and oil pricing to the best effect.

He also told the TEHRAN TIMES that Iran has no intention to leave the 13 member organisation.

Excerpts

On OPEC:

By no means do I consider this act (leaving the OPEC) to be in the interest of the organization and Iran. In the past OPEC has reflected the fact that it has power to take decisions. In fact, it is the only organization belonging to the Third World countries in which Muslim countries are the main deciders as the OPEC decisions affect the market and the world, chaos will reign in international oil markets if OPEC is dissolved.

I believe that one of the serious discussion which we will from now on have in OPEC will be the determination and formulation of a long-term course of action with regard to production and pricing. I hope that the organization will formulate and approve this policy.

It is necessary to note that countries consuming oil should coordinate their own long-term policies. Naturally, if we desire to have a definite policy in OPEC, it is

absolutely necessary for us to relate to these developments. OPEC must establish a logical relationship between the long-term policies of oil-consuming countries and those of oil-exporting countries.

On oil price:

In the world market, oil prices depend on supply and demand. This is in itself a detailed discussion which I prefer to take up at an opportune time.... The following are in short a series of different factors which have currently shifted pricing of oil from OPEC to oil companies:

OPEC production capability outpaces market demands.

The necessary discipline does not exist within the orgaization to control production.

The organization lacks a long-term strategy.

Completely political atmosphere governs OPEC.

Surely, these are the superficial factors involved. At the same time, there are fundamental factors such as the resources of the countries, production expenses, replacement of energy and others which need time to elaborate.

On domestic consumption of oil:

If Oil Ministry can have control over the industrial sector, white oil can be exported or changed into other refined fuels.

Both the Oil Ministry and the industrial sector can play a sigificant role in this respect. The Oil Ministry should also take steps to substitute gas for oil. The gas company should provide all Iranian cities with a gas-pipe network. In that case people can use natural gas instead of gas oil and white oil.

On export projects underway:

We believe that for the sake of the country's security in the long run the grounds for our oil exports should be diverse. The limitation we unfortunately experienced in the past few years would not occur again. In line with this, the Muharram project was approved by the country's officials. We are presently engaged in this project. There has been progress in this project which will take us out of the Persian Gulf so much so that possibly in the not-too-distant future the plan will entirely come to fruition.

The Muharram project line passes along the shores of the Persian Gulf taking us out of the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman. We will try so that this plan which is of priority in the oil industry would not be stopped from its course in any phase. But as to other export plans they are long-term projects, the economic aspects of which must be fully investigated.

Talks are underway with regard to the Turkey and Soviet Union pipelines. These pipelines will be put into operation provided they are economically worthwhile.

With regard to the export of gas to the Soviet Union, I have one general statement to make. Iran's negotiations with the Soviet Union are underway through the Ministry of Finance because this ministry is responsible for the joint Irano-Soviet commission.

On reconstruction of Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni petrochemical project: Recently a Japanese delegation came to Iran to investigate the extent of damage. They prepared a report on the matter. We are waiting to receive the official report from Japan and to enter into serious talks with them later on. Surely we hold to our previous stance. We are willing to continue cooperation between Iran and Japan so that the petrochemical project of Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni would be completed.

Majlis Speaker on Closer Ties With Gulf States

LD1311175588 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—The Majlis (parliament) speaker today emphasized Iran's readiness for expansion of ties with the Persian Gulf states.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that regional interests could be safeguarded through the strengthening of relations among littoral states.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remarks during a meeting with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who presented the Majlis speaker a report on his recent visit to Oman, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.

Eliasson Holds News Conference on Peace Talks

LD1211221888 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's representative to the Iran-Iraq peace talks has asked the two sides to make efforts to achieve progress in the talks. At a news conference he said: Although we were unable to achieve major progress on the basic issues before us, nevertheless I am very hopeful that the two sides will understand the importance of making progress in the talks. Eliasson added: The two sides have concluded that they can attain their aims through negotiations and the UN delegation has presented compromises to them.

The secretary general's representative stressed: The only means of attaining peace is to precisely implement Security Council Resolution No 598. Eliasson said: Iran and Iraq have agreed to resume their talks in December or January, at a date which will be set by the secretary general.

The secretary general's representative said he may travel to Tehran and Baghdad before the fourth round of talks opens.

4th Round of Talks Ends; 'No Favorable Impact'

NC1311084988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0548 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] The fourth round of Iran-Iraq talks has ended in Geneva. Despite the secretary general's efforts, this phase too had no favorable impact or outcome. This is because the Iraqi regime continued obstructing the process of the talks and prevented them from reaching any specific result.

In addition to its activities in the recent months and to the fact that it has not taken any positive step yet for the talks to yield a result, the Baghdad regime officially stated its opposition to the four-point plan of the UN secretary general during this round of talks between the two delegations, and it overtly began extensive efforts to block the talks.

The Iraqi regime, which resorts to tactics and constantly propounds new pretexts and illogical preconditions, is actually trying to find a way to avoid the implementation of the article concerning the identification of the aggressor. This is because once this article is implemented, a person like Saddam cannot justify his acts of the past 8 years and he will definitely be condemned by any court and under any conditions.

Thus, the Baghdad leaders, who are minions of world arrogance, resort to acts like those we witnessed during the talks in order to avoid such a situation. On the one hand they kill time, and on the other they intend to upset the order of the resolution's contents, thus trying to change the positions of the resolution's articles and even prevent the formation of a committee that will identify the aggressor, one of the articles of Resolution No 598.

Now that the talks have ended, we repeat what we have said in the past. We repeat what Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the honorable chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, emphasized during the Tehran Friday prayers. We say that the aggressing forces should return to international borders. Until that time and until the forces return, nothing can be achieved. This means that under the present conditions of neither war nor peace, as stated by the president, the presence of Iraqi forces in Iran is a sign of war, and if Iraq intends to establish peace, then it should first remove this sign.

Unfortunately, there are not many people in the world who accept this reality. Because of the arrogant powers' propaganda, many people are completely unaware of the essence of the issue.

Meanwhile, you, the brave fighters for Islam, should preserve your readiness and alertness and control all the enemies' actions from the northernmost to the southernmost points of the borders, because the current situation is more sensitive and more destiny-making than during the war. Our resistance under these conditions and our adherence to prestated principles are yet another beginning of a movement that the great Iranian nation has started. It is a pattern for all the oppressed of the world, a pattern for struggle against and for confrontation with world arrogance.

Velayati on Iraqi Delegation

LD1411070488 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran from Geneva Monday at the conclusion of Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva.

He said to reporters at the airport here that the Iraqi delegates participating in the talks are not sufficiently empowered by the Iraqi government to make any choices in their negotiations with the Iranians, and that the limitations imposed on them have frustrated Iran's endeavours for implementing the U.N. Resolution 598.

The Iranian foreign minister also said that the Iraqi delegation does not have the necessary good will for solving the existing problems.

He said the next round of talks will be held sometime in December or January but that no date has yet been set.

Velayati added that exchange of sick POWS as proposed by Iran will be made over a period of 20 days in late November or early December.

Commentary on Upcoming Talks

LD1211123188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1053 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Station commentary: "The End of the Third Round of Iran-Iraq Talks"]

[Text] Yesterday, in an interview, Jan Eliasson, special envoy of the UN secretary general, announced the conclusion of the third round of talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq. The third round of tripartite talks lasted 12 days. During this period the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq held seven sessions of talks in the presence of the UN secretary general and Mr Jan Eliasson, his envoy.

Mr Perez de Cuellar presented a new plan, based on the summing-up of the views of the two countries on implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598, which was intended to give a greater impetus to the talks. In fact his move was regarded as an effort to provide contents within a framework for the next round of the talks.

In the meantime, Tehran and Baghdad had the opportunity to study the plan until they began the recent round of the talks. However, with the beginning of the third round of the talks, and despite the fact that the framework of the talks had been specified and presented as the four-point plan of the secretary general, Iraq refrained from expressing any views on this plan.

It is amply obvious that the Iraqi position with regard to the proposals offered in the talks as well as the initiatives of the UN secretary general are at variance with the principle of the acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598. This is because the acceptance of the resolution and the role of the UN secretary general imply that one should cooperate with the secretary general and make an effort to quickly implement the resolution. Obviously, failure to believe in that inference would render any effort fruitless.

Therefore, as our country's foreign minister has said, the UN secretary general and the Security Council must play a more active part in effecting the speedy and more precise implementation of Resolution No 598 as well as the executive plan of the secretary general and his four-point proposal. This is vital if the experience of the recent three rounds of the talks is to be avoided.

Now that the third round of the peace talks has come to an end, the question to be asked is: Is a mere tripartite agreement among Iran, the UN, and Iraq reason for initiating the next round of talks? Or, is it necessary to obtain international guarantees, especially from the Security Council, before the beginning of the next round of talks so that everybody may be assured of the fruitfulness of the talks?

Of course, effecting the cease-fire and the mere fact negotiations are being held must be regarded as an important step in putting an end to war and engagement; it has restored tranquility to this part of the world. However, the new situation—no war and no peace—cannot go on for long. Looking at the Iraqi expansionist policies on the one hand and the very short distance between the two countries' frontlines on the other, one cannot overlook the possibility of new engagements.

Following the acceptance of the resolution and during several rounds of talks the Islamic Republic of Iran has indicated its utmost goodwill and cooperation with the UN and the Security Council. But immediately after the acceptance of the resolution, the Iraqi regime has tried to resort to futile political measures to relegate the decisions of the international body to subsequent stages; it wants, so to speak, to solve the difficulties in a specific manner.

Anyway, as the peace talks must arrive at a reliable point, the Islamic Republic has agreed with the executive plan of the secretary general. It has also said that his recent four-point plan can be studied and has assessed it as positive.

However, the Iraqi regime continues to rely on unprincipled positions blocking the progress of the talks. Now everybody can see that the Iraqi regime, through its blatant opposition to the implementation of the clauses of Resolution No 598 in the order of their incorporation, has placed itself against the United Nations. And to lessen the weight of responsibility from its own shoulders Baghdad has had its foreign minister say that it is optimistic about the future round of the talks.

The third round of the talks had only the freedom of the sick and disabled POW's to show as its achievement. But it failed to arrive at one of the important phases—the withdrawal of forces. The experience of the 8-year war has shown that once it is under pressure the Iraqi regime yields to acceptance of what is right. And now it is incumbent on competent international forums, especially the United Nations, to bring the necessary pressure on the Iraqi regime to achieve progress in the next round of the talks.

Iraq Accused of 'Killing Time'

NC1111103088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0550 GMT 12 Nov 88

[From the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] One of the issues that the Iraqi regime has propounded in an effort to portray itself as a humanitarian regime, concerns the release of prisoners of war before the withdrawal of forces to the international borders. With this overture, parallel with its manipulation of the contents of Resolution No 598, the Ba'thist Party is trying to calm the domestic atmosphere and alleviate foreign pressure on it. With this ploy, the Iraqi regime wants to cover its obstructions of Resolution No 598 with a veil of deceit and, meanwhile, to reorganize its political and military life by killing time.

Released Prisoner Alleges Iraq Tortures POW's

LD1011170688 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Qom, Nov. 10, IRNA—A recently-released disabled prisoner of war today disclosed the Baghdad regime's inhuman treatment of Iranian POWS.

Mirza Parviz, a shipping company employee, taken captive during the fall of the southern port city of Khorramshahr in the early days of the imposed war, said Iranian POWS are regularly tortured, both physically and psychologically.

Parviz was captured after being seriously wounded in one leg and was transferred to a prison inside Iraq where he spent a year and a half under the most under appalling conditions.

He said he was not allowed to take any bath during his imprisonment, and Ba'thist jailers flogged any POW who protested the miserable conditions.

Later, said Parviz, he was shifted to an unhygienic POW camp that was totally devoid of any medical facilities. "POWS are barred from performing congregational prayers and those who dare are severely beaten", he said.

Wounded, Sick POW Exchange 'Later This Month'
LD1111183388 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 11, IRNA—Wounded and sick prisoners of war in Iraq and Iran will be repatriated later this month, the International Committee of the Red Cross announced Friday.

"Under this agreement with the ICRC, the operation will begin on 20 November with the return home of some 1,500 Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war," said the organization in a statement today. The announcement came hours after the end of 12 days of peace talks between the two countries which did not lead to a breakthrough.

Iran and Iraq also agreed to provide the ICRC with a list of all other wounded and sick prisoners of war who will be repatriated as from 5 December, the ICRC said. The repatriation of these POWS must be completed by 31 December.

"The ICRC hails this agreement and hopes that this favourable development will facilitate its efforts towards the repatriation of all prisoners of war and all civilians displaced during the conflict."

The agreement was finalized after the signing of a memorandum of understanding by Iraq Friday afternoon. Iran signed a similar document at the ICRC Headquarters Thursday.

About 100,000 POWS are believed held in the two countries, though so far under 20,000 have been registered by the Red Cross in Iraq and just over 50,000 in Iran. ICRC officials said contacts would continue to reach an agreement at least on the registration of the remaining POWS in the near future.

The coming prisoner exchange would be far the biggest since the war began in September 1980. Iran has repatriated about 800 Iraqi prisoners while Iraq has returned nearly 650.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said "there are a number of Iranian refugees in Iraq, tens of thousands of them... and we are ready to cooperate with the ICRC in order to solve their problems."

Thousands of Iranian civilians were taken prisoner when Iraqi troops occupied dozens of Iran's border villages in the first few days of the war. The Iraqi Government has not listed all Iranian prisoners in its report to ICRC yet.

More Kurds Expelled From Turkey Arrive at Border
LD1311113088 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Nov. 13, IRNA—Another batch of 150 Iraqi Kurdish refugees expelled by the Turkish Government, arrived in this border province over the past two days. They were received by Iranian officials for humanitarian reasons after wandering on the nearby snow-covered montainous regions for days, and were later moved to refugee camps.

This brought to 36,724 the number of Iraqi Kurds granted asylum by Iran since it accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on July 18 followed by the August 20 ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. An official at the Governor General's Office here told IRNA that Iran's refusal to accept them would jeopardise their lives because of the cold weather.

He said the total number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees settled in the province now stood at 45,724, including 9,000 who had sought refuge during the Iraqi imposed war (started in September 1980).

There are 11 townships under construction in various areas of this province to settle Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

Musavi Briefs Cabinet on 5-Year Program
LD1311124488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] We begin the hour's news reports with a report about the issues raised in today's cabinet meeting:

The cabinet met this morning and examined the most important domestic and international events. In the meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi discussed the 5- year program for the country's socioeconomic expansion. He said: The government is seriously drawing up a 5-year plan and the task is progressing with the close cooperation of the Majlis. We hope that in future months, we will have a 5-year plan, with a view to the country's 10-year development.

The prime minister also briefed the cabinet about his meetings with the people and authorities of Khorasan Province. We referred to the support of our country's revolutionary, faithful, and hard-working people for those who serve them, and stressed the importance and magnitude of the responsibility borne by officials of administrative organizations. He expressed the hope that the government and other officials, in all sectors, would be able to tirelessly serve the people so that they can thereby express their gratitude for their unstinting support.

Mir Hoseyn Musavi also said: In the meeting of the Consultative Council for the Country's Reconstruction [majma'-e siyasat-gozari-ye baz-sazi-ye kheshvar] it was

decided that there will be the necessary cooperation in the Majlis, with respect to the council's policies when programs are being drawn up.

In the meeting, Minister of Culture and Higher Education Farhadi submitted a report about the results of the seminar on issues relating to saffron production [as heard]. He stressed the need for the cabinet's total support for saffron producers.

RESALAT Emphasizes 'Need for Change'

NC1411185488 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Part I of an editorial by the RESALAT political department: "Need for Change"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr President and respected representatives:

Today, with heavy losses in men and materiel, the nation's relentless war against the foreign aggressor is ended. Today our nation has returned to its state of anticipation which marked the days following the Islamic revolution. It is now anticipating a major change on the domestic political and economic scene and is eagerly looking forward to the realization of its religious ideals. Today the officials are back at a point where they were a decade ago, when they were confronted by changes and developments in the economic and social system.

At this juncture events have assumed a more integrated form, which extends beyond the pale of problems in the aftermath of a war. What society has been expecting as a foreseeable and harmonious occurrence, and is perhaps still expecting, is that not only will the wartime policy of the government be discontinued, but there will be some new developments even if the policy is contrary to what has been going on until now! This waiting for change is as revolutionary as showing patience in the face of economic policies and wartime tribulations. [passage omitted]

In order to bring about the necessary developments in the country we must view anew and in a creative manner two very important topics, both of which are extremely vital for the perpetuation of the revolution and the Islamic system. One is the "future policy," and the other is the "implementation of the new policy." As regards the various points implied by these two topics, each point is more tangible than the one before, and all of them mean "change"!

Three factors are compelling us to "change" the situation:

First, the people have endured hardship at the maximum threshold of their tolerance and now demand assistance. They want the officials to make changes as far as the present situation is concerned.

Second, people also feel the need for change because of the utter monotony and sameness that characterize the situation in the country during this period of "peacetime" and "wartime."

Third, the fact that all are aware that "change" is possible in the current situation and under the current circumstances motivates officials and those implementing policy to strive to change the situation.

The wartime conditions, which were the greatest hindrance to making policy changes and carrying them out, have now been eliminated. During the war preserving the government's policies was tantamount to the safety of the system. Will preserving them today result in eliminating the system?

Change is possible today. If change is interpreted in international political terminology as instability, insecurity, immaturity, disgrace, and similar attributes, this interpretation is not true. If it were so, then it could be said that the Soviet Union, which has embarked on major changes in its policies for over half a century and on a reshuffle in the fabric of its ruling party from the highest government officials to the lowest strata of government, should be considered the most unstable and insecure country in the world! [passage omitted]

In the past years, the government did not delegate tasks to the people. It put all economic, cultural, social, and propaganda matters in its own hands. The result of these measures was a conflict between the administrative machinery and the people, the elimination or the bypassing of the people's potential, and the transfer of all problems stemming from the war to the administrative machinery.

In view of the vast and unimaginable extent of the problems and the limited centralized ability of the government, the government was unable to bring about the harmony and coordination among its administrative departments that was needed. Initially, this resulted in clashes and differences of opinion in society, and these were reflected among the Majlis deputies, particularly among the ministers and the government itself.

Instead of understanding the fact that clashes in the government are a reaction to societal demands and opinions, the administration initiated a purge of the opposing elements in order to remove interference and fighting, even though it is obvious that the elimination of conflicting opinions from the corpus of a government does not mean that the interference or the nation's disagreement with the government's policies has ended. However, this policy was continued until all the elements opposing the main body of the government were in a way eliminated.

Gradually, conflicts with the ruling party and their policies once again surfaced in the remaining elements. Once again the bulwarks of the government were either

removed or moved aside themselves in order to maintain their prestige or their dignity, when instead the government should have guided the conflicting opinions toward a reform of its own erroneous policies.

The matter did not end here, however. The fabric was subjected to reconstruction and restrictions were imposed on the remaining parts. This imposition of restrictions—also on ministers who had endeavored to display the maximum loyalty and dignity, as they were themselves the constituents of the fabric, the main structure—resulted in the creation of superfluous portfolios and departments. Departments or councils were created, and they grew to head each ministry with exactly the same responsibilities as the ministry.

In addition, the government's various interferences in economic and social affairs and its tendency to expand and proliferate resulted in the creation of numerous government departments and increased government expenditures, without any concomitant increase in the government's ability to tackle problems!!

Rafiq-Dust, Reza'i Said Under Surveillance

TA1111172788 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that Mohsen Rafiq-Dust, the dismissed IRGC minister, and Mohsen Reza'i, the IRGC commander, are under surveillance in Tehran. Citing reliable sources, our fellow strugglers have reported that the Islamic Republic regime has intentionally not totally relieved these two individuals from their work so that it can have better control over them and prevent them from joining the growing list of government opponents.

According to reliable sources, the regime's security agents are keeping the whereabouts, meetings, and the telephone conversations of Mohsen Rafiq-Dust and Mohsen Reza'i under surveillance on a 24-hour basis. The agents deliver daily reports about these two individuals to Reyshahri, the regime's minister of intelligence and security.

Maldives

Gayoom on Recent Events, Indian Assistance

BK1211162688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives says his government will give top priority to reviewing the country's security set up. Initially, the national security service will be enlarged and reinforced.

In an exclusive interview with our special correspondent, John Churchill, in Male, Mr Gayoom said that he was aware of some elements opposed to his policy, but never expected that they would resort to violence of such magnitude involving foreign mercenaries and lethal weapons.

He said he is personally indebted to the government and the people of India, especially to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for responding promptly to his request to foil the coup attempt. He said India has helped to restore peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region by coming to the rescue of the elected government of Maldives.

On his talks with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Gayoom said that they had reviewed the situation and discussed bilateral issues.

Pakistan

AFP Views Context of Upcoming Elections

BK1411044288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0428 GMT 14 Nov 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 13 (AFP)—Pakistanis go to the polls Wednesday [16 November] for their first free elections after 11 years of military power, taking the difficult road to democracy under the watchful eye of the Army.

The return to Western-style democracy in a country ethnically divided between Punjabis and Sindhis, who control politics, Pathans and Baluchis, which has seen almost a quarter century of military power since its creation in 1947, will be fraught with danger, say specialists.

Besides the 1977-1988 period, which included eight years of martial law, Pakistan was controlled by the military from 1958 to 1971.

Smooth and honest polling and the acceptance of the results by the main parties—the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by Benazir Bhutto and the Muslim League, which backed the late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq—will be the first tests for the emerging democracy.

The Army, cherished by General Zia who died in an air crash in August, continues to watch over the process even though its leader, General Aslam Beg, said Saturday that troops would return to barracks after the elections.

The last multi-party elections were held in 1977 and were won by the PPP, but were generally held to be marred by massive electoral fraud.

Most observers say that if the PPP beats the Muslim League, and especially if there is unrest in the weeks that follow, an Army that considers itself the "guarantor of Pakistan's integrity" will intervene.

"Even if the PPP wins, the Army will maintain its right to watch over policies, especially those on India and Afghanistan," said a diplomat. "The fear of Indian hegemonism is very strong among officers."

Ms. Bhutto, daughter of former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the founder of the PPP who was ousted and later hanged by Gen. Zia, has avoided provoking the Armed Forces and has named two former generals to high posts in her party.

The PPP is expected to seek closer ties with the Soviet Union, while trying at the same time to maintain a special relationship with Washington which furnishes Pakistan with considerable financial aid.

Ms. Bhutto has been accused by Islamic fundamentalists close to the Muslim League of being too Western. They said the fate of Pakistan and of its 100 million inhabitants should not be decided in Washington.

Her party has already indicated a desire to follow the Geneva Accords between Pakistan and Afghanistan, under which Moscow pledged to withdraw its troops stationed in Afghanistan since their 1979 intervention.

The PPP is expected to move away from Gen. Zia's military support for the fundamentalist mujahidin in order to search for a peaceful solution to the Afghan conflict.

One specialist said, however, that "it will be too late, as the weapons supplied to the mujahidin by the Americans, the Saudis and the Chinese are already inside Afghanistan and the (rebel commanders) want to take revenge."

Pressure from Pakistan's Army and Secret Service has always had a major impact on the policies adopted by the seven leaders of the mujahidin alliance based in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar, observers here said.

The PPP is also expected to seek a detente with India, the giant to the east with which Pakistan has historically had tense relations.

But the going will be tough as the Army will not tolerate losing Islamabad's claim to a section of Kashmir and a part of the Siachen Glacier northeast of Pakistan to what a large part of the press here calls the "Indian imperialists."

Other thorny problems such as corruption, drug trafficking and the release of political prisoners detained during martial law threaten to quickly poison the political climate here if Ms. Bhutto's party wins the elections.

Islamabad Details Arrangements for 16 Nov Polls

BK1411155488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The stage is set for the general elections for the National Assembly on Wednesday [16 November]. All election campaigns will come to an end by midnight tonight. The elections will be held for 205 Muslim and 10 non-Muslim seats. As previously reported, the polling for two Muslim seats—one in the Punjab and the other in the NWFP—has been postponed because of the deaths of two candidates from these constituencies. The polling for these seats will take place later.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent Zaman Shah Rashidi says that over 46 million voters will cast their ballots in the National Assembly elections for the Muslim seats and over 1.36 million for the 10 non-Muslim seats. A total of 33,330 polling stations and 113,720 polling booths have been set up across the country. The 205 Muslim seats being contested for the National Assembly include 114 in the Punjab, 46 in Sind, 25 in the NWFP, 11 in Baluchistan, 1 in the federal capital, and 8 in the federally-administered tribal areas.

The government has completed all arrangements for free, fair, and impartial polls. For this reason, it is essential that national identity cards are presented before the ballot papers are issued. Personnel of the law enforcement agencies and, if necessary, the Army, will be posted near sensitive polling stations.

The Election Commission has made comprehensive arrangements at its headquarters in Islamabad to collect provisional results from all over the country.

Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television have set up special booths at the Election Commission to announce provisional results immediately after they become available.

Radio Pakistan will broadcast hourly news bulletins throughout the night of the election day to announce the latest provisional results. Candidates can appoint polling agents to represent them at the polling stations before the start of polling.

Troops Deployed on Election Eve; Meetings Banned

BK1511001088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 15 (AFP)—Troops in battle gear have been deployed in sensitive areas throughout Pakistan on the eve of Wednesday's national elections, witnesses said here.

The often emotionally charged campaign ended at midnight Monday as more than 48 million eligible voters prepare to vote.

Public meetings and gathering of people around polling stations have been banned to ensure smooth elections.

The unprecedented security arrangements adopted for the polls, the first party-based elections here after 11 years of military rule, include the stationing of tanks and armoured cars.Troops in fortified bunkers have also been stationed at strategic points, witnesses said.

Special arrangements have been made in the southern province of Sind, which is in the grip of ethnic tension, officials said.

More than 300 people died in the port city of Karachi and nearby Hyderabad in September and October when native Sindhis and Urdu-speaking Mohajir migrants from India clashed in the worst riots since the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

Schools and colleges have been closed and armed troops and police patrolled main roads amid fears of clashes between supporters of rival candidates.

Special units at the city's entry points were searching vehicles, said witnesses. Officials said a ban has been imposed on carrying weapons.

More than a dozen parties and coalitions are contesting the elections, but the main competitors are the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by Benazir Bhutto and the nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI).

Bhutto Compares Own Cause to Afghan Struggle

BK1411151488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 14 (AFP)—Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto told a large public meeting here Monday that her fight for democracy was analogous to the struggle of the Afghan people.

In her first direct reference to the rebel mujahidin's struggle, she said "Afghan refugees are our brothers. They are also struggling for democracy and we are also struggling for democracy," she said.

Ms Bhutto, who flew here after addressing a mammoth pre-dawn rally in Lahore, the Punjab capital, said she had been warned not to visit this border city which has become a centre of Afghan mujahidin rebels and refugees.

The rival Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) has influence among the refugees because of its strong support of the mujahidin struggle for a government of their choice.

She dismissed the warnings, saying "Benazir is not a lonely girl" and adding that she enjoyed massive support in the country.

Ms Bhutto, racing against time to address as many rallies as possible before a midnight close to the campaign for Wednesday's general elections, visited dozens of cities and towns in the populous Punjab in a whirlwind tour.

Ms Bhutto, whose party is tipped to score well in the elections, has avoided elaborating her Afghan policy, but reports here said she opposed late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq's deep involvement in the Afghan issue.

In the industrial town of Faisalabad in Punjab, Pakistan's largest province, she expressed concern over the recent deployment of surface-to-surface SS-1 Scud missiles in Afghanistan, saying that the long-range missiles were a threat to Pakistani cities.

Addressing a responsive crowd in Peshawar, she said her party would not allow any force to harm the country's security and unity.

Lashing out at the IJI, she called her rivals "heroin smugglers" who supported General Zia's martial law and "plundered the country" for 11 years.

Soon after the meeting, she flew to Karachi to wind up a hectic month-long campaign. She is contesting the elections from both Lahore and Karachi.

UN Teams Visit Afghan Border To Assess Claims

BK1111030388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] An inspection team from the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan visited areas along the Pakistan-Afghan border in Khyber, Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies to investigate allegations of violations levelled by the Kabul regime against Pakistan and to investigate the incidents of shelling by Afghan artillery from across the border.

Another team of the mission visited the Thal area to inspect the site where the Pakistan Air Force shot down a Kabul regime aircraft on the 3d of this month and captured an Afghan pilot. The team also interviewed the pilot.

Foreign Office Rejects Claims

BK1311090488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's protests regarding alleged [Pakistani] violations of Afghan airspace and territory. In one protest, it was alleged that two Pakistani F-16 aircraft had penetrated into (Khowst Uluswali) and destroyed two Kabul regime planes on 3 November.

In another protest, it was alleged that Pakistani helicopters had violated Afghan airspace at (Sarsawo Kande) in (Shinwad Uluswali) in Nangarhar Province and at (Ghadri) area in Khowst Division, and that the Pakistani

Armed Forces, militia force, and the mujahidin attacked the Afghan security posts and customs and immigration offices at Afghan Towr Kham.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and was told that Kabul's allegations were investigated and found to be baseless. He was asked to convey to the Kabul authorities that they should stop leveling such fabricated allegations.

Yaqub Khan Congratulates Baker on New Appointment
BK1111035488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has congratulated Mr James A. Baker on his appointment as the new U.S. secretary of state. In his congratulatory message, the foreign minister said Pakistan and the United States have been bound by a long-standing friendship which has served our mutual interests as well as the cause for peace in this part of the world.

The foreign minister added that, as an excellent friend of Pakistan, Mr Baker has taken a personal interest in promoting these relations. He expressed the hope that under the guidance of the secretary of state-designate, our relations will be further strengthened.

Foreign Minister Returns Following Iran Visit
BK1411162588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, returned to Karachi this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Iran. On arrival, he told newsmen that he held wide-ranging talks with Iranian leaders on major regional and international issues as well as matters of bilateral interest. Their talks focused on the security situation in the region, with particular reference to the Gulf.

Views were also exchanged on the Afghanistan situation, and the two sides agreed on the paramount importance of withdrawal of all Soviet troops by the 15th of February next year in accordance with the Geneva accords. The two sides agreed to continue frequent consultations to further strengthen and expand cooperation.

Sri Lanka

Thousands Return to Work in Colombo, Other Areas
BK1111121388 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1042 GMT 11 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—People turned up in their thousands to work in Colombo and the outstations this morning except in a few isolated areas including the districts of Moneragala and Hambantota where the curfew is in force, informed sources told LANKAPUVATH. They said the Bank of Ceylon was open for business and so were commercial banks. All mercantile offices and factories were functional.

Shops and markets were open and goods were freely available. Private bus fleets operated at full strength and were supported by the Sri Lanka Transport Board buses on some routes. However, there were no train services as yet but efforts were being made to resume operations soon. As the fuel distribution system improved more people began to report to work and there were more vehicles on the roads. Petroleum corporation sources told LANKAPUVATH that they expect the distribution of fuel to soon return to normalcy.

Meanwhile there was an incident reported today where one person was shot dead and one other captured at a security checkpoint near Colombo's Welikade jail. The report further states that the sentry at the checkpoint had ordered the two persons who were loitering about near the Welikade prison to advance to be identified. The suspects had ignored the order and tried to escape when the sentry opened fire. Both suspects were injured. One of them, Ranil, succumbed to his injuries while the other was captured and handed over by security forces to the police.

Police also said they had to use tear gas to disperse a crowd of about 25 persons staging an illegal demonstration near a hotel close to the Colombo Fort railway station this afternoon.

Situation Reported Quiet, Services Maintained
BK1211132488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1210 GMT 12 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 12 (LANKAPUVATH)—The situation was fast returning to normal today and among the developments were the reporting to work of train crews and other railway staff, the resumption of bus services in 12 transport board depots of the Colombo South region including Galle Road, vehicles being given full tanks of fuel, key points in the port functioning, foodstuffs including fresh vegetables being available in plenty in most areas, and stocks being dispatched to areas which had been disrupted.

Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that the situation was calm and quiet. There was marked improvement today in the working of all essential services. A number of train crews including engine drivers and guards reported to work today and top priority was being given to the transport of goods and fuel to the outstations. A railway spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that arrangements are being finalized to resume passenger train services.

There was distinct improvement in Sri Lanka Transport Board bus services and private bus fleets were operating at full strength. Twelve out of 16 bus depots in the Colombo South region have resumed services. Among these are at Ratamalana, Moratuwa, Panadura, Aluthgama, Homagama, Kesbewa, and Udahamulla.

Petroleum Corporation sources told LANKAPUWATH that fuel distribution had improved considerably and corporation bowsers were being operated by Petroleum Corporation crews. Filling stations had been instructed to fill tanks of vehicles without any restrictions.

Port sources told LANKAPUWATH that dock workers and other operational staff were working at several key points, including the Queen Elizabeth Quay, the Guide Pier, and the Prince Vijaya Quay, which handles food cargo.

A large number of mercantile establishments were open and there was also plenty of foodstuffs available at shops and markets.

Police and security forces maintained a tight security in order to prevent saboteurs from disrupting the normal life of the people.

Government Introduces Emergency Laws on Funerals
BK1311100088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Colombo, Nov 13 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has introduced sweeping emergency laws allowing police to dispose of the bodies of people killed by security forces while combating subversive activities, officials said Sunday [13 November].

The laws gazetted Wednesday under emergency regulations allow police officers above the rank of assisant superintendent to dispose of bodies without inquests and restrict the number of mourners at such funerals.

Officials said it would mean that police will handle the funerals of people killed during anti-government rallies or while breaking curfews.

The government action came as the Sinhalese militant group the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) staged a general strike virtually paralysing the country and organised sporadic protest rallies.

Military officials said the bodies of 20 demonstrators killed by troops in Southern Province were disposed of over the weekend under the new laws in a bid to prevent militants making use of the funerals to create further violence.

Protestors backed by the JVP clashed with troops in three southern towns Thursday leaving 20 people dead and 24 wounded, officials said. [passage omitted]

Troops have been armed with shoot on sight orders to quell anti-government rallies. A four-hour night curfew is still in force throughout the troubled country.

Faced with increased work stoppages, the government announced that employees failing to report for work will be sacked and replaced by new recruits. The situation in Colombo and life began slowly returning to normal Saturday after the warning.

Government To Reward Citizens Fighting Subversion
BK1311114788 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] The government today called on the public to take action against subversives committing acts of sabotage and exercise their right of self-defense as provided for by the law. A government spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that civic conscious citizens taking such action against sabotage would be rewarded. The identities of those persons receiving rewards will not be disclosed if they desire anonymity.

The government spokesman also requested citizens to display posters in public and other places condemning the activities of subversives. He said that any subversive poster carrying the death threat should be removed from private premises by the occupants and failure to do so would make them liable to be suspect of supporting or being engaged in subversive activity. The continued display of these subversive posters would make the occupants of such premises liable for prosecution under the new laws against subversion.

Meanwhile, it has been discovered that a number of subversives leading illegal demonstrations in the south were disguised as Buddhist monks.

The spokesman said that the suspects when arrested are alleged to have admitted that they are disguised as monks in order to prevent the police and security forces using force to disperse demonstrators. In addition, some of the subversives leading demonstrations had disguised themselves as (?women).

The government spokesman added that the police and security forces have been ordered to disperse all demonstrators irrespective of the dress in which they were clad.

JVP Leader Vows To 'Defeat' Indian Army
BK1311113088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov 13 (AFP)—A Sinhalese rebel leader has said his group was preparing to fight Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka in a bid to drive the foreign army out and resolve the island's minority problems.

Rohana Wijeweera, 45, the leader of the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) in an interview published here Sunday [13 November] vowed to abrogate the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

New Delhi has some 49,000 troops deployed in the island's Tamil-populated North and East in line with the peace plan which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

In a question-and-answer interview with a Sinhalese language weekly, the LANKADEEPA, he said Sri Lanka's minority problem was partly due to the "interference by foreign imperialistic forces."

"We will take steps to militarily defeat the Indian imperialistic forces ... It can be done. If anyone has the slightest doubt, it will soon vanish ... At present we are preparing the ground for it."

Mr. Wijeweera added: "The Indian troops can be, and will be sent back only when they are defeated by a future patriotic people's army of the JVP leadership."

The JVP is a recognised political party, but operates as an underground organisation and has successfully staged strikes across the country demanding, among other things, the immediate resignation of President Junius Jayewardene.

The group which has labelled the accord as a sell-out to India has been accused of killing more than 500 ruling party supporters, security personnel and leftists backing the peace plan.

"We pledge that we will abrogate the accord, chase out the invading Indian Army, and protect the country's territorial integrity, national freedom, and reassert the sovereignty of the people.

"There will be no mercy from us for one who betrays the motherland and joins the enemy," Mr. Wijeweera said.

He also called for a ban on the activities of India's external intelligence agency, research and analysis wing, in Sri Lanka.

In 1971, Mr. Wijeweera led a bloody insurrection which was put down by the government with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Mr. Wijeweera said that if his party assumed power it would nationalise all foreign interests in the economy without paying compensation.

He also slated the old established left-wing parties saying they had no answers to what he described as the country's current national crisis.

The JVP had reportedly formed an alliance with seven other opposition parties, including the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), to contest December 19 presidential election, but it failed to come up with a common programme.

Mr. Wijeweera said in his interview that the JVP had "written off" the SLFP indicating that the alliance had broken down.

Residents in Southern Province, a hot-bed of JVP activity, said Sunday that posters had been put up in the region "banning" the SLFP and warning its members to resign. [passage omitted]

Anti-Government Protests Spread; Five Killed

BK1511095588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov 15 (AFP)—Anti-government demonstrations spread in Sri Lanka Tuesday [15 November], leaving at least five people dead as Sinhalese militants stepped up violence, officials here said.

Troops fired at slogan-shouting protestors in north central Anuradhapura District late Monday, killing three and wounding six, and clashed with a similar crowd in central Matale town Tuesday, a police spokesman here said.

An estimated 5,000 people backed by the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) marched through the streets of Matale, drawing fire from security forces, the spokesman said.

He said no casualties were immediately reported, but residents contacted by telephone said three people were killed when troops opened fire to disperse the crowd.

In similar clashes last Thursday, troops killed 20 protestors in the worst bloodletting in the region since October 10, when 15 people were killed by security forces.

The government has armed soldiers with shoot-on-sight orders to quell anti-government demonstrations and given sweeping powers to police to dispose of such bodies without inquests.

Suspected JVP gunmen shot dead a bus driver near here Tuesday and stabbed to death a soldier who was guarding an oil storage facility in central Peradeniya town overnight, officials said.

They said JVP activists also sabotaged a railway bridge in southern Matara District and torched a state-owned bus station in central Kegalle town Tuesday.

Several highways in Southern Province, a hotbed of JVP activity, were blocked with trees felled across them, officials here said.

They said JVP gunmen also stormed a sugar cane plantation in the East and escaped with 50 shot guns and 360 rounds of ammunition. [passage omitted]

Jaffna LTTE Commander Killed by Patrol

BK1211131688 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1220 GMT 12 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Nov 12 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Jaffna commander of the LTTE, Sarat Babu, was among 20 killed in separate incidents and 16 school children were injured in an IED [improvised explosive device] explosion which also claimed the lives of 4 civilians Thursday [11 November].

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that LTTE Jaffna town commander, Sarat Babu, was shot dead yesterday by an IPKF [Indian peacekeeing force] patrol. The Indian troops recovered one 9 MM pistol, 2 magazines, 13 mm rounds of ammunition, one hand grenade and two cyanide capsules from the body of Sarat Babu.

The sources said that 4 civilians were killed and 20 others, including 16 school children were injured in an LTTE IED explosion 1 mile from the Jaffna jetty. [passage omitted]

In IPKF operations, three terrorists were shot dead at Karaveddi, one at Karainagar, and one other at Point Pedro. The Indian troops also shot dead one terrorist name Jayaraja in Mannar and one other at Tanniyuttu. The IPKF rounded up 49 terrorists while one hardcore terrorist named Mahendran surrendered to the Indian troops north of Mandur.

LTTE Denies Massacre of Bus Passengers

BK1511045488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov 15 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatists Tuesday denied involvement in Monday's massacre of 28 Sinhalese bus passengers and said it could be the "dirty work of Indian-backed Tamil terrorists."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a statement released from its London office, said it categorically denied that the organisation was responsible for the killings in northeastern Trincomalee District.

The Sri Lanka military and a police spokesman here said Monday LTTE gunmen ambushed the mini-bus at Pinketiyawa village, ordered the passengers out, lined them against the bus and opened fire.

"This is malicious propaganda carried out by the Sri Lankan Government to tarnish the image of our organisation.

"This massacre could have been the dirty work of the Indian-backed Tamil terrorist groups to cut a wedge between the LTTE and the Sinhala political movements who are seeking an understanding with our organisation," the statement said. It did not name the Sinhalese political groups.

The rival Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) accused the LTTE of carrying out the attack and said it was aimed at Saturday's autonomy polls in the region.

"We condemn this inhuman act. Only the LTTE can and have carried out such racist attacks on innocent Sinhalese," EPRLF spokesman Shankari said.

The latest attack was the worst against Sinhalese in five weeks since the October 10 massacre of 45 Sinhalese farmers in northcentral Ulllukulama village. On October 18, six more Sinhalese were butchered. The LTTE denied both attacks.

A defense official here said more violence could be expected in the area before the elections to set up a united autonomous provincial council joining the Tamil-dominated north with the multi-ethnic eastern region.

"The Tiger plan seems to be to keep the area in constant turmoil and provoke a Sinhalese backlash against the Tamils," the official said.

He said hundreds of troops were continuing a search Tuesday for the killer squad, believed to be about 15-strong, which had been armed with automatic assault rifles. Mobile patrols and roadblocks have been increased, he added. [passage omitted]

64 'Terrorists' Arrested; Explosives Seized

BK1411130788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1153 GMT 14 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 14 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—A total number of 64 terrorists including an associate of LTTE Jaffna commander Sarat Babu, who was killed by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] recently, were arrested and a jerry can containing 200 kilograms of explosives were seized by Indian troops in their ongoing operations in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern sectors. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 200 kilograms of explosives in a jerry can was recovered at Kovil Villu in the Jaffna sector, yesterday.

The sources said that in the Wanni sector, Indian troops seized 7 metallic improvised explosive devices, 1 hand grenade and 3 locally made rifles filled with gunpowder at Cheddikulam. Meanwhile a gang of unidentified persons had shot dead Gagendran, alias Alex, a hardcore terrorist near Nallur in Jaffna.